

Union Jack is lowered in Rhodesia for the last time

Most of the British Empire in Africa and the last of the continent came to an end at midnight when Rhodesia became independent. In a broadcast to the nation, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister,

called on his countrymen to look to the future. He urged them to follow the example of the newly integrated Rhodesian security forces and guerrilla armies who heralded a new era of national unity.

Independence Day ends an era for Britain and Africa

Salisbury
The Union Jack was lowered for the last time at Government House, Salisbury, as the Prince of Wales and Lord Soames stood by.

became independent at midnight, will become the fifth member of the Organisation of African Unity. It has also become the forty-third member of the Commonwealth.

In an address broadcast to the nation this evening, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said that April 18, Independence Day, was the birthday of great Zimbabwe. Tomorrow, he said, Rhodesia will become men and women of the future. It is tomorrow then, and not yesterday, which bears our destiny.

Hours after the Union Jack was lowered in Government House the new red, black, green and gold flag of Zimbabwe was raised at a midnight ceremony at the Rufaro stadium in the Harare black township of Salisbury marking the birth of the new nation. Before that, the heads of delegations representing almost 100 nations as well as a number of international

organisations were to attend an independence banquet.

The independence ceremony was similar to many which had been witnessed in other parts of Africa. Apart from the raising and lowering of flags, an independence flame was to be lit which will be carried by runners to the Salisbury Kopje (hill) tomorrow in time for a service for fallen heroes. Musical accompaniment was provided by a Scottish pipe band, Handu Janco's, at their made up of Zulu guerrillas as well as Mr Bob Marley, the Jamaican reggae singer.

However, there were also several unique factors about the evening. The new President, the Rev. Canaan Banana, by Mr Justice Macdonald, who is to retire shortly, was a prominent supporter of UDI who was responsible for raising the death sentence on many of the Rev. Banana's former national colleagues.

Second, was the presence of a joint guard of honour comprising the Rhodesian security forces and elements from the Zulu and Zipsa guerrilla armies. Four months ago these men were killing one another. Tonight they symbolized the start that has been made on forging a new national army.

In his broadcast, Mr Mugabe called on all Zimbabweans to follow the example of the integrated forces. By marching in step together, he said, they heralded a new era of national unity and togetherness.

Representatives from almost 100 nations were attending the independence celebrations—a reflection of the wide international support that has been accorded to Mr Mugabe's Government. They included four heads of state, six foreign ministers and a host of other senior ministers.

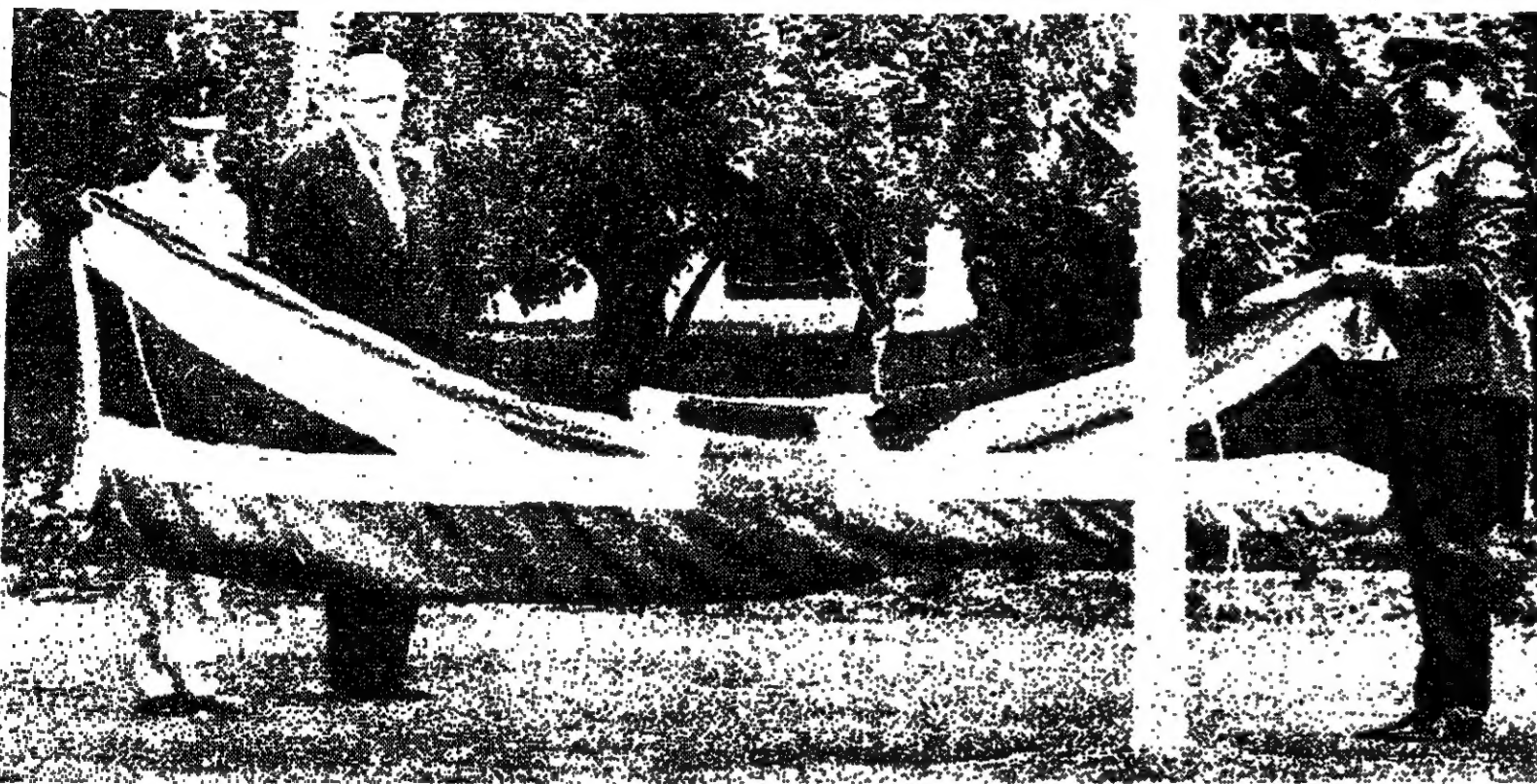
In messages from the Queen, the British Prime Minister, and

Mr Mugabe, delivered at tonight's ceremony, emphasis was placed on the need to look to the future and not to the past and also for close ties between Zimbabwe and Britain.

In his broadcast, which like previous broadcasts was notable for its moderation and spirit of reconciliation, Mr Mugabe called on all Zimbabweans to adapt themselves intellectually and spiritually to the reality of the political change that had taken place and to relate to each other as brothers. "The wrongs of the past must now stand forgiven and forgotten", he said. "Oppression by blacks should be allowed to replace oppression by whites."

Significantly, he called on his black supporters to show patience and allow the government time to bring in meaningful change. It would take the government time to organize the programmes that will effectively deal with change.

Toughest task, page 16
Leading article, page 17



Jack comes down for the last time at Government House, Salisbury, as the Prince of Wales and Lord Soames stand by.

Growth of money supply near target

By John Whitmore

Encouraging March money supply figures and the selling out of the latest gilt-edged stock offer should encourage the Government as it struggles to control inflation.

Although the Government still faces disquiet on wages and prices, there are growing signs that it is winning its battle to control the growth of the money supply.

In the March banking month starting 13th, the broad-based measure of money growth, rose by just 0.4 per cent. This still leaves the rate of growth since last June slightly above the 7.1 per cent a year growth target, but it is a further improvement on previous figures.

If some allowance is made for the seasonal component in the surrender or certificates of tax deposits, then the rate of growth since last June drops just inside the target range. With optimism that the April money supply figures will continue this improving trend, markets are starting to build up their hopes of a small reduction in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate by early summer.

But at least three conditions will have to be met before the Government is likely to countenance an officially led cut in interest rates.

First, the overall money supply figures will have to continue to show a downward trend. Second, the authorities will need to be convinced that the underlying demand for credit is likely to be sustained. There has been firm evidence for some months that the personal sector's demand for credit has been decelerating, but little evidence that the corporate sector's credit appetite has been satisfied.

The overall bank lending figures for March certainly look much better, with the increase in loans to the private sector being held to £165m against the recent monthly average of about £750m. But commercial bills held outside the banking system rose by a further £160m and the authorities are still taking a cautious view of the trend.

The third condition is that overseas interest rates are moving downwards. The evidence starting to look encouraging after the recent drop in United States money market rates, prime rates and euro-dollar rates.

Continued on page 21, col 6

1,000 policemen being put back on streets of London

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent
Mr Patrick Kavanagh, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said in an exclusive interview yesterday that the redeployment of 1,000 officers back on the streets.

The number of divisions in London has been reduced from 82 to 75, three stations would be closed and another 18 closed at night.

Already 400 men had been released for operational duties as part of the emphasis of putting officers back on the streets.

Mr Kavanagh also spoke of new arrests as a result of the Countryman inquiry, told me of new training for the Special Patrol Group in race relations, and criticized much of the publicity of the campaign against "sus" laws (section 29 of the Police and Vagrancy Act) as "misguided and misleading".

The Deputy Commissioner said that at every stage of plans to restructure the Metropolitan Police there had been consultation with the local authorities concerned before changes had been decided.

Mr Kavanagh was chairman of the working party into restructuring.

Another working party is looking into the establishment of the force, at present 26,589, a figure that had not changed for many years, Mr Kavanagh said. It was unrealistic, taking no account of increasing crime and the shorter working week. The true figure ought to be some thousands more than that.

The force was now 23,000 strong, the highest figure ever. There were 36 officers from ethnic minorities at the close of the year, one was an inspector and eight were sergeants.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

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Continued on page 21, col 6

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Continued on page 21, col 6

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Continued on page 21, col 6

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Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Continued on page 21, col 6

Bank union and employers meet on pay dispute

By David Felton

Labour Reporter
A 20 per cent pay deal for 180,000 railwaymen linked to a commitment to the introduction of improved productivity was hailed by unions and management yesterday as a significant breakthrough.

The unions said the deal signalled the end of the era of the cheap railway worker. British Rail said it was "delighted" with the unions' "solemn and binding commitment" to efficiency measures.

The offer, which will cost British Rail £220m in a full year, is to be recommended by leaders of the three rail unions to their members. The rise will be paid in two stages, 16 per cent from April 21, the annual settlement date, and the remaining 4 per cent from June 30.

A one hour reduction in the working week to 39 hours from November next year, and improved holidays for staff with more than two years' service were also agreed.

Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said after the talks: "It is a sensible deal but

Rail pay 'breakthrough' as unions accept 20% linked to productivity

it still presents the unions with enormous problems in accepting changes in working practices. These changes will be introduced by step and will give a new deal for railwaymen on pay and conditions."

He said it was a deal the unions could honour and meant that blue-collar railwaymen would for the first time be earning more than £200 a week. Basic minimum earnings rise to £56.60 outside London. A signalman's weekly pay rises to £106.60 and that of a senior engine driver to more than £100.

When the negotiations opened last month the unions claimed basic increases of at least 20 per cent with no strings attached. Mr Ray Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, said that although they were entitled to a 35 per cent increase, they were satisfied with the offer.

Mr Tom Jenkins, general secretary of the Transport Salaried Staffs Association, said the unions had given a firm commitment to carry through the productivity talks.

Productivity proposals centre on improved efficiency in

British Rail's parcels and freight business, which has traditionally made a loss and only recently started making marginal profits. General administration is another area where the unions have given commitments for introducing changes.

In the longer term wide-ranging proposals for the more efficient use of manpower, and changes in working practices will be discussed.

The deal will eventually be extended to cover the whole of British Rail's 243,000 workers and to include staff in subsidiaries such as the hotels, hoverscraft, engineering and Sealink companies.

Mr Clifford Ross, British Railways Board member for industrial relations, said: "We are delighted with the deal. It is a major breakthrough in terms of the commitment to change which was the fundamental issue we had to crack in these pay talks."

Mr Ross said it was too early to say whether fares would have to rise because of the deal. He said British Rail will decide in the summer.

BR may cut branch lines, page 4

BR may cut branch lines, page 4

BR may cut branch lines, page 4

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Mrs Thatcher to back down on EEC budget

By Fred Emery

Political Editor
Mrs Thatcher is no longer pressing for a major EEC budget deficit at the Luxembourg summit meeting in 10 days time.

She hopes her fellow heads of government will go far towards reaching a formula for a solution, but she has recognized that while they are eager to resolve the difficulty there are other pressing world crises that must also be attended to.

This account of the Prime Minister's thinking, which emerged in authoritative quarters last night, indicates how she has adapted the "stand and deliver" approach of the Dublin summit last November.

It is said that she has ceased to be either pessimistic or optimistic about the outcome, but is encouraged by the much greater understanding the Community shows for an equitable solution.

She would hope that other pressing world events would speed the settlement of Britain's complaint that its net contribution of more than £1,100m be reduced nearer to balance.

Hint of EEC help, page 6

Hint of EEC help, page 6

Hint of EEC help, page 6

Hint of EEC help, page 6

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Hint of EEC help, page 6

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Hint of EEC help, page 6

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Hint of EEC help, page 6

Hint of EEC help, page 6

Hint of EEC help, page 6

Hint of EEC help, page 6

Hostile reception for new Prior clause

By James Prior

Secretary of State for Employment, came under attack from both sides of the House of Commons when he introduced the controversial new clause of the Employment Bill, which limits the legal immunity of trade union officials in taking secondary industrial action.

Jail threat lifted: Mr Stuart Dryden, a former chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club, has six-month prison sentence suspended for two years by Court of Appeal.

Belvoir inquiry National Coal Board criticized for not answering questions on the economics of its £760m project 5

Pier Plan: A £6m scheme to restore Brighton's derelict West Pier, to include an amusement park, is proposed 4

Moscow: Huge fraud in caviar exports puts Kremlin on the spot 8

Classified advertisement: Personal, pages 21, 32; Appointments, 22, 30; Property, 24, 26, 29; Car Buyer's Guide, 29; Holidays and Hotels, 30

Home News 2, 4-6

Chess 29

European News 6

Overseas News 8-9

Appointments 19, 26

Diary 11

Engagements 19

Features 16, 18

Law Report 16

Letters 17, 24

Motoring 32

Obituary 19

Parliament 14

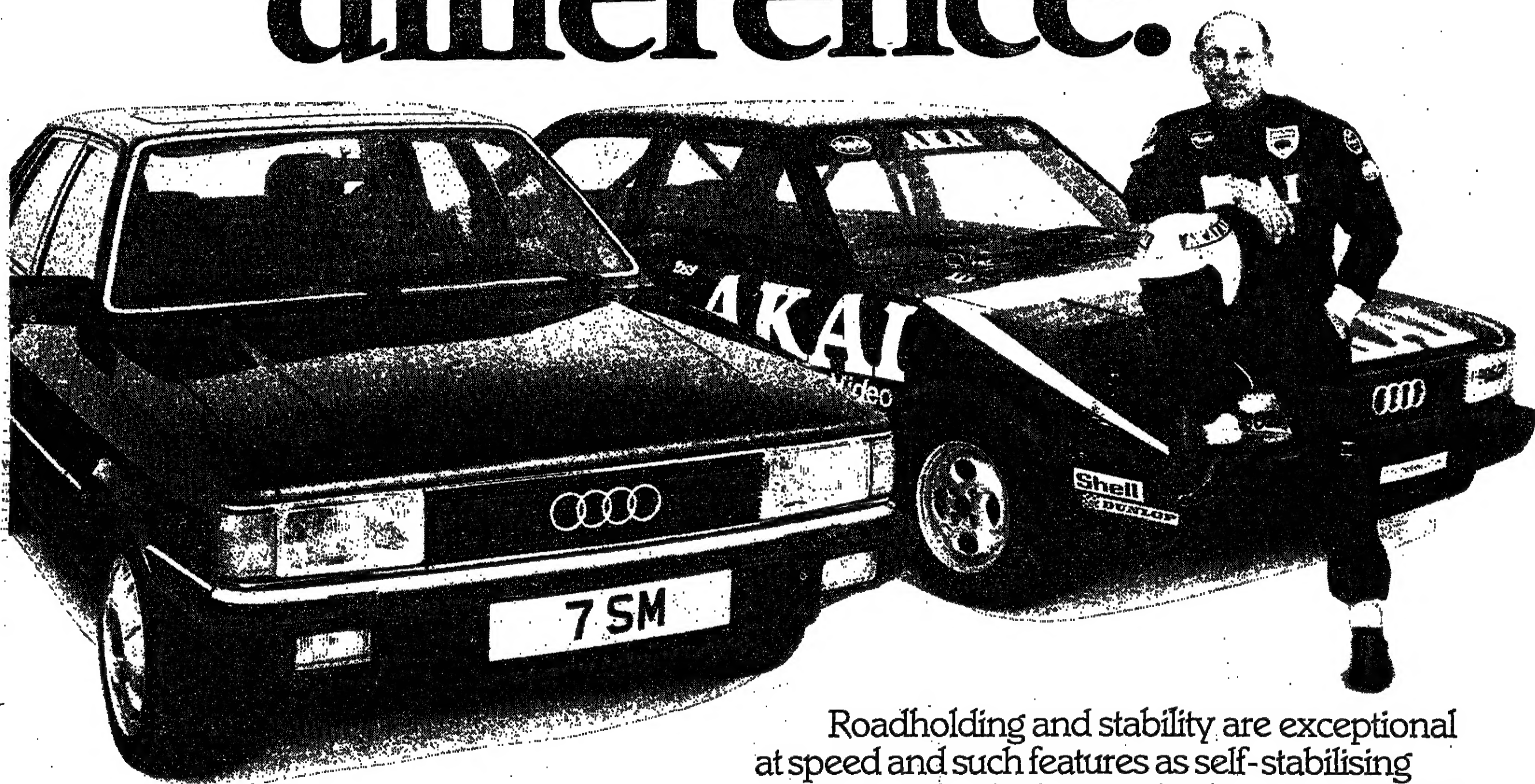
Sale Room 10, 19

Science 12, 13

Sport 12, 13

TV & Radio 11

"I drive one and race the other. Sometimes can hardly tell the difference."



The car Stirling Moss drives to and from the racetrack is the Audi 80 GLE.

The car he powers around the circuit is again an Audi 80, though this time a specially prepared racing version.

Naturally, the latter is the quicker of the two. It also has modified suspension and a functional rather than luxurious interior.

More interesting, however, are the features the car started with.

For, as Stirling pointed out: "I have never driven a saloon which, even in standard form, so clearly has all the makings of a race winner."

The 80 GLE is, of course, a fast car in its own right.

It will reach 60 mph from rest in a mere 9.2 seconds and power effortlessly on to a top speed of 113 mph.

Yet while it is a fast car, it's also a very safe car.

Roadholding and stability are exceptional at speed and such features as self-stabilising steering and a dual-circuit braking system add greatly to the driver's peace of mind.

Inside, the car is roomy, quiet and very luxuriously appointed.

And the sleek looks of the 80 GLE are due only in part to aesthetics: the aerodynamic wedge shape helps on fuel economy (an admirable 39.2 mpg at a constant 56 mph), reduces wind noise and also gives excellent all-round visibility.

Your local Audi dealer will happily let you try the Audi 80 GLE (or indeed the LS or GLS version), should you wish to put our claims to the test.

Stirling Moss did precisely the same once. And now he drives two.

The new Audi 80.
Audi The car for now.

OFFICIAL AUDI 80 GLE FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES ARE: FOR THE URBAN CYCLE 23.5 MPG (12 LITRES PER 100 KM) AT A CONSTANT 56 MPH, 39.2 MPG (7.2 LITRES PER 100 KM) AND AT A CONSTANT 75 MPH, 30.7 MPG (9.2 LITRES PER 100 KM). FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE TO AUDI MARKETING DEPARTMENT, VOLKSWAGEN (GB) LIMITED, YEOMAN'S DRIVE, BLAKELANDS, MILTON KEYNES, BEDFORDSHIRE MK14 5AN. DIPLOMATIC, NATO AND PERSONAL EXPORT SALES, 95 BAKER STREET, LONDON W1. TELEPHONE 01-486 8411.

British Rail may seek branch line cuts and rural bus links

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

British Rail is expected to reopen with the Government this summer the question of branch-line closures, despite the uproar when it was last raised in November.

There will be no question, however, of large closures such as the 41 services on 900 miles of route mentioned then, which drew a forceful denial from Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, that such closures were being or would be entertained by the Government.

Instead, British Rail is expected to propose closure of up to a dozen little used branch lines in the West Country, East Anglia, and the North, excluding substantial cross-country links such as the central Wales line, and those north of Liverpool. Such closures would still make substantial savings without, it is felt, causing serious hardship to the public.

That would be especially so if, as is likely to be proposed, the rural lines are replaced by guaranteed contract bus services time-tabled by British Rail to connect with remaining railheads. Local authorities will be asked to provide financial support for the buses, on the understanding that they will be reimbursed by central Government, for whom it will be substantially cheaper than supporting the present services by rail.

Mr Fowler was widely felt to have closed the door on rail closures so far as the Government was concerned, but his actual phrase, in a letter to Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, after his Commons statement on November 9, was "my firm policy is that there should be no substantial [four italics] cuts in the passenger rail network."

It is understood that the Government would in fact welcome modest proposals from British Rail for the same reason. That BR is being forced to make them, the success on public expenditure and need to contain subsidies to the railways; the effect that is having on the board's operations in the light of cost inflation, including the present wage settlement; and the need to concentrate investment where it is most required: freight and inter-city passenger and south-east commuter services.

On rural lines that remain open, low cost innovations such as radio control in place of traditional signalling and road traffic signals at level crossings are receiving serious study at British Rail, which had previously been strongly opposed to them.

Further real fare rises for those commuters, who are the monopoly market, would merely make the situation worse: the social value of the services should be recognized by support from local, as opposed to national, taxation, the Central Transport Consultative Committee says in its annual report.

While it is true that many commuters to London earn above-average salaries, many do not: and finding up to £600 or £700 out of taxed income can be a severe burden, especially in view of rapidly rising housing and living costs, the committee says. There is evidence that many people who moved into new housing in the 30-50-mile radius from London in the early 1970s have opted to take local jobs, which although they pay less, reduce travel costs and time dramatically.

Employment in central London is already declining from 1.4 million in 1961 to 1.07 million in 1981, and that is likely to be encouraged by the development of out-of-town centres, and accelerated by real

price rises in commuter fares, the report says.

"The real pricing option is not as attractive as it might appear, whatever the arguement might imply. The level of discount offered on season tickets at a time when the service is most expensive to provide is the nub of the problem, but it is difficult to see how the railways could escape from a system of their own devising."

"Progressive reductions in the tapering discount for mileage might be an answer, as might the level of infrastructure provided to meet peak demand; but more important is a recognition of the social value of the network and a commensurate level of support, perhaps via local rather than national taxation."

Punctuality on the railways is very poor and getting worse, Mr Frank Higgins said at a press briefing by the committee in London yesterday. In the past three years the proportion of late and cancelled trains has risen throughout British Rail.

On the possibility of further rail closures, the committee says the Beeching exercise showed that buses were not an adequate substitute for trains. Apart from a few short grossly inadequate services, closures would be against the national interest in the light of the likely services.

Amusement park plan for Brighton pier

From Joan Young
Planning Reporter
Brighton

A £6m scheme to rescue and restore Brighton's derelict West Pier is to be submitted to the district council within the next few weeks. It would include a new amusement park, dominated by a 60ft high roller coaster and a 150ft wide Ferris wheel.

The instigator is Mr Alan Hawes, aged 53, an entrepreneur, who was born in London, but has spent the past 30 years in the United States.

During those years, he says, he built 60 Mississippi paddle steamers, sight-seeing towers at Daytona Beach, Florida, and Niagara Falls, more than 30 serial walkways and "probably more passenger monorails than anyone else in the world."

"I even built a frontier museum in Texas, including a replica of a nineteenth-century bawdy house. That's not bad for an Englishman."

Mr Hawes, who says he spent £3m in the first three months of this year, has a "big wheel" opening in Morecambe today and is constructing a monorail along the Rhyol seafloor.

He has strong views on the backwardness and lack of imagination of the British



Mr Alan Hawes at the pier he hopes to lease and restore.

amusement industry. "Apart from Blackpool, it is 20 years behind the United States and the rest of Europe", he says.

"For some reason, all the leisure companies in this country choose to put their money into slot machines and betting shops."

He first heard of the West Pier's plight on a television programme. He was subsequently introduced to Mr John Lloyd, secretary of the Brighton West Pier Society, which has campaigned to save it from demolition.

Since the former owners went

into liquidation, the pier has passed into the hands of the Crown Estates Commissioners, who have offered to sell it for £100 to anyone who can show that he has access to the estimated £800,000 needed for essential repairs.

The society now hopes that, with Mr Hawes's support, it will be able to buy the pier's freehold and lease it to him. Mr Lloyd says the society's management is completely in favour of the idea.

Informal approaches to the council have met with a non-committal response, Mr Hawes

remarked. "They say they would like to see a concrete proposal put forward, but that they expect it to encounter opposition."

If the scheme is accepted, the first step will be to make the pier safe. The amusement park will then be built at the shoreward end and generate revenue which will then be used for the restoration of the rest of the structure, including the pavilion.

The witnesses that characterize most British fairgrounds will be firmly eschewed, he declares.

No full live coverage of Olympics on TV

By a Staff Reporter

There is to be no full live coverage of the Olympic Games by either the BBC or the Independent Television Companies.

The decision was announced yesterday, confirming a statement made last month by the BBC. The final form of the coverage by the two organizations will depend on how many countries decide to compete in Moscow.

The full statement said: "The BBC and the ITC in consultation with the independent television companies have jointly confirmed that they will not go ahead with the full live coverage of the Olympic Games as formerly intended."

"There will be further discussions about the situation develops about the precise form and extent of the reduced coverage to be given to the games."

A BBC official explained that same statement already made by the BBC. "If you only have two or three block countries competing, then there would obviously not be the same interest. The United States may decide to hold an alternative Olympics and the British Olympic Committee may decide not to go to Moscow. It is all very much in the melting pot."

The two organizations were planning to spend about £3m each on Olympics coverage. One official said yesterday that it was "an expensive way of getting a lot of viewers". The BBC had expected in the morning to give 200 hours of coverage. Now it sees its role as giving the same kind of news treatment as any other sports event. It will be the end of May before a decision is made.

In Norway, 75 former Olympic champions, leading athletes and sports administrators have jointly called on the Norwegian

Sports Federation to boycott of the game. The federation is voting on a boycott of a convention on Sunday.

Yesterday, Italy Committee, announced voted unanimously in the games.

Signor Franco, president of the speaking on the deployed the deci United States to games.

The Australian Minister, Mr Malcolm Fraser, is in Zimbabwe, an independence celebration decided to return to hear the Australia Federation vote on sent team.

Mr Fraser was back to Australia night, but will re-early 1984 games threat. can boycott could a United States would fled from stagn games in Los Angeles official of Prava state newspaper, yesterday (the Prava reports).

Mr Vsevolod O member of the P said that accord Olympic charter, States' national O mites could be after taking a "p sion" not to go to the whole Ol ment is in great Ouchnikov, a fo Kingdom, corre Prava, said. He to deliver three East-West relations At a press cc Glasgow, he said i Carter's boycott w the who encoi against the Soviet

Warning that high fares bring social changes

By Our Transport Correspondent

High rail fares are forcing South-east commuters to give up their jobs in London and find work locally at lower salaries, the "consumer watchdog" for the railways said yesterday.

Further real fare rises for those commuters, who are the monopoly market, would merely make the situation worse: the social value of the services should be recognized by support from local, as opposed to national, taxation, the Central Transport Consultative Committee says in its annual report.

While it is true that many commuters to London earn above-average salaries, many do not: and finding up to £600 or £700 out of taxed income can be a severe burden, especially in view of rapidly rising housing and living costs, the committee says. There is evidence that many people who moved into new housing in the 30-50-mile radius from London in the early 1970s have opted to take local jobs, which although they pay less, reduce travel costs and time dramatically.

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UK threat to Canadian air services

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

A meeting between Britain and Canadian government aviation negotiators ended in London yesterday without agreement and with the British side threatening to restrict services by Canadian airlines to the United Kingdom.

The meeting had been called to try to resolve a dispute over the refusal by Canada to allow British Airways to fly non-stop services between Britain and Vancouver unless Air Canada was allowed to pick up in London passengers bound for Europe and to fly a service between London and Hong Kong.

The Canadian negotiators were told that unless an agreement was reached by next April, their operators would not be allowed to continue to fly non-stop services from the west coast of Canada to Britain.

On the possibility of further rail closures, the committee says the Beeching exercise showed that buses were not an adequate substitute for trains.

Apart from a few short grossly inadequate services, closures would be against the national interest in the light of the likely services.

Police escort Sir Rupert Mackeson back to Britain

Sir Rupert Mackeson, aged 38, the baronet wanted for questioning by Scotland Yard over alleged fraud offences, arrived at Gatwick airport, London, yesterday, escorted by two police officers. He was arrested in Zimbabwe on Tuesday and held as a prohibited immigrant.

He was later escorted to Bow Street police station, London. The police said they would be questioning him about three offences under the Theft Act. It is believed a number of other matters have also to be discussed. No charges are expected in the next two days.

Sir Rupert, son of the late Brigadier Sir Henry Mackeson, former Conservative MP for Folkestone and Hythe, disappeared from Britain at the end of October, 1977. He was alleged to have left debts, thought to total £100,000.

His departure from Britain came at about the time the police began to receive complaints from holidaymakers at home and abroad who had booked with Sir Rupert's cultural tours company, Master Classes.

His mother, who died last year aged 65, had issued a writ against him for the return of jewellery and cash worth £13,000. She was never able to serve it. Scotland Yard circulated a description of Sir Rupert to Interpol and issued an arrest warrant for him alleging a

£20,000 fraud, which he has since denied in interviews with reporters.

The Rhodesian authorities told him that he would be deported and there was a legal writ against him. He sent a telegram to the Home Secretary pleading for the return of his passport which had been sent to Britain by Bishop Muzorewa's government.

He claimed that "enemies in the City of London" had told him he would be killed if he set foot in England again. He told a national newspaper in Britain that the men who wanted him dead killed Lord Lucan.

Last July Rhodesia ordered his deportation. In Johannesburg, South Africa he was taken from the aircraft but South Africa negotiated his return to Rhodesia.

Last November he was released after a court ruling that he had been unlawfully held because there was no extradition treaty between Rhodesia and Britain.

He began to sue the authorities for unlawful detention.

He stayed on, only to find himself facing a new deportation threat after the Rhodesian peace settlement which meant the country was once again subject to British law and extradition treaties.

Scotland Yard detectives started new moves to get him back to Britain.

Universities lose foreign applications

By Our Education Correspondent

Applications to universities from home students have risen by 4 per cent compared with the same time last year, while applications from overseas students have fallen by 12 per cent, according to figures published yesterday by the Universities Central Council on Admissions (UCCA).

Women accounted for the entire increase among home candidates, their applications showing a rise of 5 per cent over 1978, while applications from men fell by 1 per cent. Women accounted for 44 per cent of home candidates applying for entry this October.

The drop in applications from overseas students appears particularly big because of the high number of applicants last year. But there is still a 6 per cent drop compared with 1978.

The UCCA suggests that many overseas applicants may not have heard about the big increase in fees for overseas students this autumn. If that is so, the proportion of applicants able to take up an offer of a place will fall even more sharply.

The Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts, and the overseas development sub-committee of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, hope to publish their reports on May 13 on the implications of the Government's decision to increase overseas students' fees, provided that they can be printed by then.

Applications from home and overseas candidates to civil engineering and mechanical engineering courses are substantially down (by 16 per cent and 8 per cent respectively), but there have been big increases in three other engineering fields: aeronautical (14 per cent); electrical (12 per cent); and general (8 per cent).

Legal code for children born of AID urged

A legally binding code of practice for artificial insemination by donor (AID) was called for at the National Council of Women's annual conference in Great Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, yesterday.

Mrs Elsie Hargreaves, an Oxford delegate, said that AID had been practised in the United Kingdom for 30 years. "In the early days, only a few families were affected, but demand is growing, and the greater the demand the greater the necessity for strict genetic safeguards", Mrs Hargreaves told the 400 delegates.

Mrs Hargreaves said that there should be a rule of law to deal with a child's paternity, but that the legal status of the child should not be considered in isolation from the other factors involved.

"We would like to think that there would be a further opportunity of deciding what is the best legal status for a child born of AID, without minimizing the risks involved", she said.

With only two abstentions, the conference carried the resolution pressing the Government on medical and genetic grounds to review the present code of ethics on AID and to formulate a legally binding code of practice.

Study on monitoring hazardous load

From Ronald Kershaw
Middlesbrough

The feasibility of a system of advance warnings to emergency services of the presence and nature of potentially hazardous loads in chemical-carrying tankers in urban areas was discussed at Middlesbrough yesterday.

Professor Peter J. Hills, professor of transport engineering and director of the transport operations research group at Newcastle University, was seeking responses from delegates to the seventh symposium on the transport of hazardous substances held by Cleveland Constabulary and Teesside Polytechnic.

He said that a study, for which a grant had been awarded by the Science Research Council, involved the application of the rapidly developing technology of vehicle identification and the use of electronic devices to enable encoded information carried on a vehicle to be

transmitted automatically to a central control point.

So far, efforts to minimize the risk in bulk movements of hazardous goods had concentrated on coping with the aftermath of accidents. In many cases, initiatives aimed at risk reduction had come from voluntary working parties set up by bodies such as the Chemical Industry Association and the emergency services.

The common thread running through various approaches had generally been allied to the best way of handling an incident after the event.

"If, however, the emergency services in the areas through which any potentially hazardous bulk consignment is conveyed were given advance warning of its presence, the nature of the load, and its proposed destination from the time at which the area was entered, various courses of action could be adopted before

any incident occurred.

Professor Hills's of induction loops of location of vehicles in place, urban area. It had been develop the presence of sp of vehicle. The was for increasingly s detection of any duction loops wou rogate" vehicles, d passage over the Select Committee a control point.

The study would identification of flows of hazardous cussion with local police, and other services in areas of identification of fea either institutional, nologically, of mon movements of tank determination of th monitoring

Jail term of former football club chief is suspended

The threat of a six-month jail sentence on Stuart Dryden, former chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club, was lifted by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

It ruled that Mr Dryden, aged 53, who had been granted bail shortly after the sentence was passed on January 15 for frauds on the Post Office, should not have to return to prison. It suspended the sentence for two years.

Mr Dryden, of Trevor Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, had been convicted of obtaining cash by deception at the sub-post office he ran at Ruddington, Nottingham, by submitting bogus claims for payment for a holiday relief.

Yesterday he abandoned his application for leave to appeal against conviction. Lord Roskill, sitting with Lord Justice Donaldson and Mr Justice Mustill, said the evidence that Mr Dryden had acted dishonestly was absolutely overwhelming.

Lord Roskill said the court, with some hesitation, felt Mr Dryden's sentence could be suspended because the trial judge at Nottingham Crown Court was unduly influenced by the fact that he was a sub-postmaster.

Corrosion warning

Police advised drivers on the M6 yesterday to wash their cars after a drum of corrosive fluid fell from a lorry near Hilton Park service station on the motorway in Staffordshire.

Two police sergeants saved a woman aged 30 from death as she fell from a bridge over the M6 motorway at the Charnock Richard service station near Chorley, Lancashire, early yesterday.

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NEWS

Economics of £760m
air project
abt, QC says

respondent board had failed to produce any evidence from important interests such as Imperial Chemical Industries or industrial bodies such as the Confederation of British Industry.

"During the time coal has had a considerable price advantage over oil there had been no turning to coal even though coal is supported by government subsidies and oil is heavily taxed," Mr Gray said.

With the Central Electricity Generating Board, the coal board's main customer, and British Steel buying coal on the world market, Mr Gray said the board was naive in its opposition to coal imports.

Mr Gray said the inquiry that it was accepted that there would be no tariff protection or quota system for United Kingdom coal, electricity consumers were right to expect the CEBG to have the cheapest fuel it could. "The Coal Board has failed entirely to show that British coal is competitive with Continental or overseas coal."

Mr Gray said the borough council did not want to see the end of the United Kingdom mining industry. But he told the inquiry: "The Vale of Belvoir is a particularly attractive, tranquil and productive piece of countryside."

Closing Melton Mowbray's case, Mr Gray said that if mining was allowed the best compromise would be to extend the existing mine at Cotgrave and build just one of the board's three proposals, the mine at Asfordby, which is adjacent to a steelworks.

"Half a loaf is better than none," he said, claiming that nearly half the estimated 510 million tonnes of reserve could be won this way, perhaps more if the extraction rate was increased.

Quoting lines from the Northumberland ballad, *Close the coalhouse door*, in a convincing Geordie accent, Mr Gray urged the inspector to recommend "that the coalhouse door is never opened in the Vale of Belvoir."

The inquiry continues today

Michael Mann, for "This is a very difficult document which a benefited from

is sceptical that owing industrial as the board ce, he said, the

Government elections: Labour firmly confident
North-west may hold key to victory

tures

said in political e (or she) who west of England there is more east in the region ocal government

Labour leaders ident that they antial gains be-acklash against ices, possibly king control of n and nine y councils.

recent Govern- n, particularly unemployment he financing of ation activities. be acute in the its generally onomic climate. at rates are pace with the ntry but were high level when ive Government er. Since 1979 ve been lost in e overall unem- is 7.7 per cent Scotland's), and as it is above 8 40 per cent in inner areas of

fects of various nment regional : yet to be mea- : unlikely to be e 30 per cent or- torate that nor- local government about candidates ed to make the ue. ibly, the Conserv- t accepting that d to as badly for uperficial predic- Regional officials' early this week ter-than-expected dorstep canvess Budget was not expected "being t comment. tical line-up is ecause some coun- y changes, others a third of their d some of the nty districts or not holding elec- at year or 1982. : number of casual be included result-

ing from the deaths and retire- ments of councillors.

Different views are taken, too, of what constitutes "the north-west" by the main political parties as well as by government departments, with Cumbria administered from Manchester by some and from Newcastle upon Tyne by others.

Within the counties of Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Lancashire and Cheshire there are 779 vacancies. Labour is fielding 771 candidates, the Conservatives 712 and the Liberals, of necessity and partly by choice working on a more selective basis, 386.

The councils seen as prime targets for Labour include Bolton (where there will be an "all-out" election for 69 seats, with the present line-up 35 Conservatives, 33 Labour and one Liberal); Rochdale (no overall control, 27 Conservatives, 25 Labour and eight Liberals); Oldham (no overall control, 30 Conservatives, 28 Labour and two Liberals); Preston (30 Conservatives, 26 Labour and one Liberal); Blackburn (no overall control, 22 Conservatives, 27 Labour, four Liberals and seven Independents); and Crewe and Nantwich (no overall control, 25 Conservatives, 28 Labour and four Independents).

The greatest chance of a Labour gain is Bolton, which is psychologically important because the town is often regarded as the most sensitive political barometer in the nation, both in general and local government elections.

Although the textile industry is now a relatively small employer, even in a traditional cotton town like Bolton, "the recent further round of spinsters for the remaining spinning and weaving firms in central Lancashire is almost bound to produce an acute "again the Govern- ment" feeling.

The influence of the Liberals cannot be discounted; they have set their sights firmly on some dramatic gains in Wigan, in the Cyril Smith country of Rochdale, of course, and in Stockport, with perhaps more modest successes in Manchester City, Bolton, Bury, Salford and Tameside which could upset some Labour calculations.

There remains the enigma of Liverpool, which has had no clear cut political control for the past four years. The pre-

sent standing is 46 Labour, 30 Liberals and 23 Conservatives. There is to be an all-out election in the city, with Labour fielding 99 candidates, the Conservatives 98 and the still ebullient Liverpool Liberals (always considered as rather different from their kind elsewhere) another full team of 99.

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The fact that rate demands (and the water rate bills) have been dropping through letter boxes during the past fortnight is bound to colour attitudes. The Conservatives are pointing proudly to Preston, where the domestic rate increase has been kept to 14.9 per cent, West Lancashire (15.29 per cent), Chorley (15.69 per cent) and Bolton (19.31 per cent).

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Councils say they can afford only 7 to 8% wage claims if teachers' award is met in full

By Christopher Warran
Local Government
Correspondent

If the Clegg comparability awards to teachers are paid in full, local government can only afford wage claims of 7 to 8 per cent during this financial year, Sir Godfrey Taylor, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday.

He told a meeting of the association that after meeting its commitments, there was only £750m to £800m left to cover claims yet to come for teachers from April 1, while the staff from July 1, would cost £1,000m, which led to the fact that local government on its own could only meet wage claims of 7 to 8 per cent, Sir Godfrey said.

Mr Jack Smart, leader of the Labour minority group in the association, said that local authorities find themselves "in a very tight position" and that they are sure that the unions will not settle for less than 20 per cent, that is £2,000m.

"The Secretary of State has stated that there is no more cash, and we therefore need at least £1,500m to meet the minimum settlements that you can expect, the trade unions to accept."

Unless the Government helped to meet the added burden, local authorities would either have to impose whole-sale redundancies, which would mean a complete breakdown of the services provided, or to levy a supplementary rate, Mr Smart said.

The meeting became heated when Mr Smart criticized the association for its decision to cooperate with the Government on working out details of the proposed black award.

He told Sir Godfrey: "You have made the decision that the day before yesterday you have decided that you have sacrificed local government to your political masters. If there is a change in control in this country, the new controlling Labour group will continue to fight to repair the damage you have done."

But Sir Godfrey said that the Government was not going to do that. He said that the Government was not going to do that. He said that the Government was not going to do that.

From Sir Godfrey, who said it was vital to continue to try to work with the Government.

Sir Godfrey said the country was in a state of crisis, and local government could not go along by itself doing its own thing. "We are going to face serious problems. We are going to have to decide what we can afford to pay, and if we cannot pay what the unions ask, we will have to say we cannot afford to pay."

He detailed the effect of last November's rate support grant settlement to show the financial crisis that local government is facing. The cash limit on grant to cover inflation in wages and prices for the 12 months, April 1980, to March 1981, was £1,572m, implying additional expenditure to meet inflation of some £2,500m (since the Government grant is set at 61 per cent).

Against that £2,500m was set the cost of the recently settled white-collar comparability award of 13.1 per cent, manual workers' award in November, 1979, of 13 per cent, and about 13.2 per cent in a full year if the Clegg award was settled in full.

Both central and local government were caught in the trap they helped to create—the trap of "bigness", Mr Miles suggested.

Propaganda had furthered the belief that efficiency and value for money must surely follow from the setting up of larger authorities, but in reality the promised golden age was not apparent, while duplication and overlapping of services persisted.

The time was ripe for local councils to exert pressure in government circles to show how money could be saved, not necessarily by cutting services but by a sharing of services between authority and authority.

Local government waste can be reduced, group chairman says

By Our Local Government Correspondent

The public is so enchanted with local government in Britain that it is hard to see how it can be reduced, says the chairman of the National Association of Local Councils, Sir Miles.

Mr Miles was speaking at the annual conference of the association, which was held in London yesterday.

He said that the distinction could only have a beneficial effect on local councils as well as on the other parts of local government.

"It would be foolish and irresponsible to deny that waste exists. We have frequently drawn attention to it and have suggested ways in which it could be considerably reduced if not eliminated entirely."

There is a great deal of waste in local government, Mr Miles said, but it is not always obvious. He pointed out that many local authorities are still using the same methods of working as they did 20 years ago.

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Compromise hint by French minister over Britain and EEC

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 17

The National Assembly was sparsely attended this morning for the foreign policy statement by M. Jean Francois-Poncet. But the few deputies who bothered to listen carefully to the Foreign Minister's survey detected an unusually strong condemnation of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, a rather overdue emphasis on Israel's right to security, and the hint of a working compromise on Britain's difficulties with the EEC.

On the last point, M. Francois-Poncet said the French Government was "ready to give its support and help to its ally in dark hours." But it would oppose any compromise which undermined the foundations of the European Community.

If, like other governments before it, the British Government asked for assistance "limited in amount and time" the problem was "of the kind the Community had overcome in the past and must be able to overcome today."

But the notion of broad balance could not apply to one country only. A solution could and must be found. "To make it possible, all member countries must agree to adapt themselves to the Community and not the Community to itself."

France agreed there could be a better distribution of Community expenditure. But agriculture was the only sector for which the Community had entire responsibility, and expenditure was only 1.5 per cent of its gross domestic product. As for surpluses, they were expensive but applied only to very few commodities.

"They cannot therefore be used as an excuse to bring into question the whole agricultural policy." The policy could be revised for three reasons: to preserve family concerns, to produce an exportable surplus, and to respect Community preference and market organization. These did not apply to lamb.

It was wrong and dishonest to claim that France, by delaying applying the verdict of the Court of Justice, was in breach of the Rome treaty. The lamb dispute "leads us to wonder whether the objective is not to turn the EEC into a mere free trade area." He said France would not compromise on this point.

On Afghanistan, he said there was no question of having to fight against or of helping to intensify a confrontation. Afghanistan was the last and most dramatic demonstration of a progressive deterioration in East-West relations since 1975.

France had from the outset branded the Soviet intervention as unacceptable. The objective remained the neutralization of Soviet forces and the neutralization of Afghanistan.

But dialogue was never necessary in times of crisis. "France has always been better than the east drive home that it must make the necessary moves to restore détente."

He said that in the Middle East a solution could only be political, not military. Global peace must be based on the rights of the Palestinians and of Israel.

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Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, trying on an Oly mask at a Bonn reception.

Nuclear inquiry favours Plogo

From Ian Murray
Paris, April 17

The commission of inquiry into plans to build what would be Europe's largest nuclear power station at Plogoff, on the remote Pointe du Raz in Brittany, have found in favour of the project.

After a 45-day public inquiry, which was accompanied by daily protests and demonstrations led by ecology groups, the commissioners have decided that the power station should be built.

Their report, which has been delivered to the prefect for the region, will now go before the State Council and ultimately before the Prime Minister and the Minister for Industry for approval, a process which will probably last until early next year. Never the less, there has

never been a case where the advice of an inquiry commission has been rejected at a later stage.

The plan to build the 5,200-megawatt station on a peninsula regarded as being the equivalent of the Land's End of France, has provoked widespread feeling among anti-nuclear and Breton nationalist groups who have promised to do everything possible to stop its construction, whatever the outcome of the inquiry.

The commissioners say they reached their decision because only six per cent of the energy consumed in Brittany is generated in Brittany and because the area regional councils had agreed that Plogoff was the best site for the station.

The inquiry was boycotted by the local may, bulk of the population, and only submitted a comm. project.

The ecological s Rhone Alpes y lished a plan to f cate to pay up: which makes up site with 30,000 s 100 francs (£10.4) pledged not to sel electricity utility.

Meanwhile, wor the damage caused former fire at the treatment plant in near Cherboug, b up because some ment being shut, the blaze.

Two crew killed in second crash of Tornado prototype

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

The pilot and navigator of a Tornado swingwing combat aircraft were killed when it crashed on a development flight in West Germany on Wednesday. Both men were West Germans.

It was the second crash of a Tornado within 12 months. A British-manned Tornado came down in the Irish Sea last June with the loss of both crewmen.

British Aerospace, which is a partner in the Tornado project with aircraft companies in Germany and Italy, said yesterday that the test programme was continuing and that there was no reason at present why the aircraft should be grounded.

A total of 21 Tornados are flying and have spent 3,500 hours in the air since the maiden flight five and a half years ago.

The aircraft, which crashed about 10 miles from its base at Manching, outside Munich, was number 04 and the second West German prototype. It first

New in 1975 and had made 330 flights. It had been used mainly for tests on the advanced aviation electronics that are to be fitted to the Tornado when it joins the air forces of the partner nations in the early 1980s.

British Aerospace gave the names of the crew as Herr Ludwig Obermeier, pilot, and Herr Kurt Schreiber, navigator. Both were aged 42 and were civilians employed by the West German company MBB.

An inquiry into the crash began immediately. The 29m aircraft has variable geometry wings enabling it to fly at a target at low speed, or to carry out sorties at twice the speed of sound. It is seen as a vital weapon in Nato's future armory.

The initial opinion within the aircraft industry was that there was no connection between the accident and that in the Irish Sea last year. The report on that crash is complete and is circulating in Whitehall. A statement on its causes is expected in the Commons within the next few weeks.

German to expand trade in

From Patricia Clo
Bonn, April 17

Top East and West politicians today agreed to a German state to exert a calming effect on the Afghanistan crisis.

The meeting in Bonn, which was attended by German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and West German Foreign Minister Gunter Mitg, also agreed to a West German trade mission to the interior.

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Gaullists back Opposition in Poniatowski vote

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, April 17

The procedure of impeachment of M. Michel Poniatowski before the High Court of Justice was taken through the first of the many constitutional hurdles when the steering committee of the National Assembly decided today that the socialist resolution demanding it was receivable in form.

The Gaullist members of the committee voted for it with the Communists and Socialists against the Giscardians, with M. Jacques Chaban-Delmas, the President of the Assembly, abstaining.

The Communist resolution on the other hand, was rejected on the ground that it did not contain the requisite summary of the alleged offences.

The substance of the resolution must now be examined by a special committee of 15 members, elected in proportion to party strengths, to decide whether there are grounds for impeachment. If it decides that there are, each House of Parliament must concur by a two-thirds majority, and the strictly judicial phase of the case then begins.

The likelihood, however, of M. Poniatowski being brought to trial before the High Court is remote, even though the Gaullists have so far decided to support the opposition's insis-

ence that the former Minister of the Interior should be called to account for his handling of the investigation into the assassination of Prince Jean de Broglie.

M. Poniatowski announced yesterday that he would sue for libel both the Socialist and Communist parties and their 133 members who signed the resolutions for his impeachment, and demand substantial damages from them.

But he indicated he would take action only when Parliament was in recess, in July, and members could be sued for libel without a vote of Parliament to lift their immunity.

M. Poniatowski repeated today in a radio interview from Strasbourg, where he is attending the session of the European Parliament, that he was completely ignorant of the threat of assassination against Prince de Broglie.

"It is intolerable," he said, "to be accused unjustly, falsely, without a shadow of a crime, having withheld a document from the case file, of having had knowledge of the threats on the life of Jean de Broglie, and of having violated the subjective character of the proceedings."

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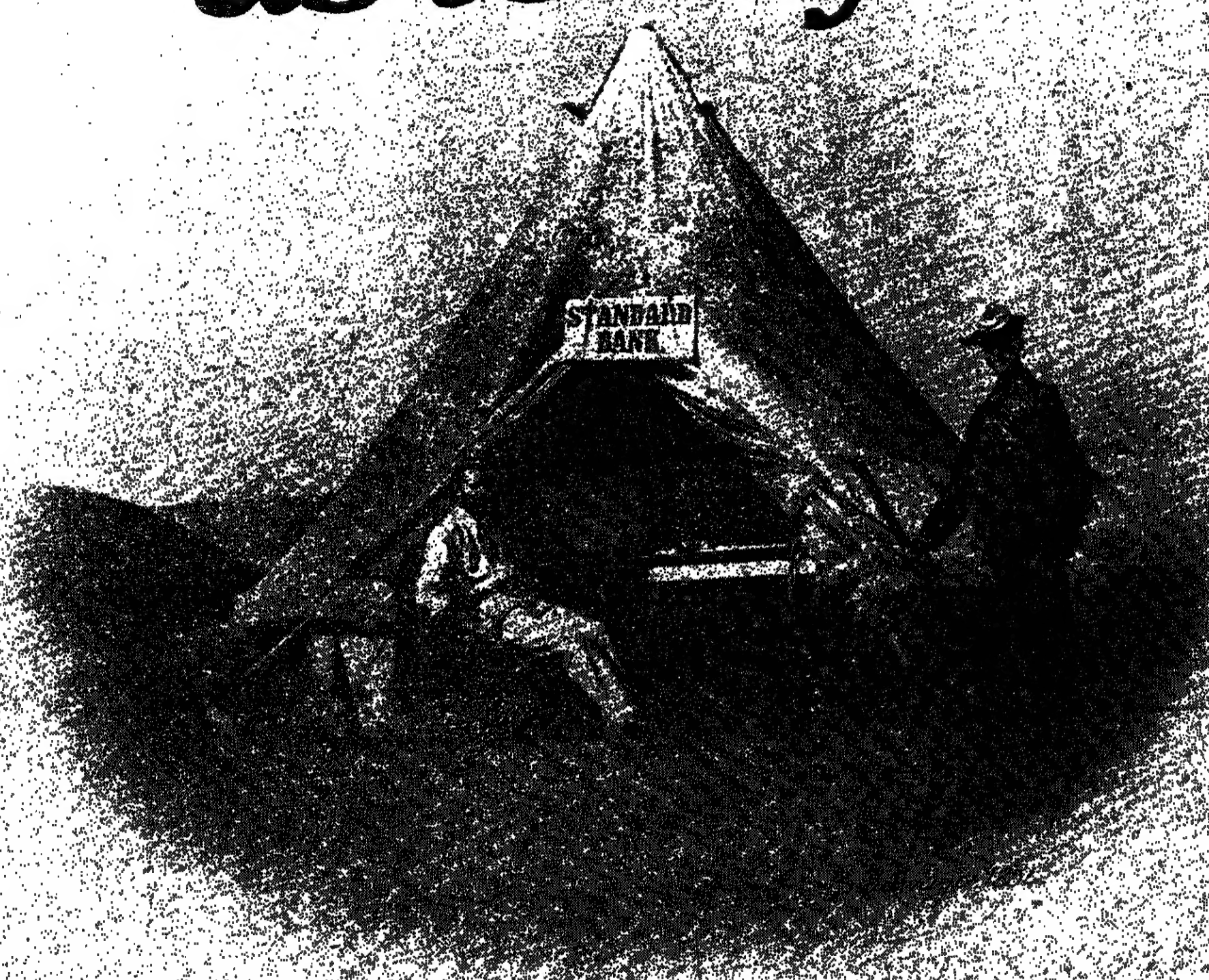
Widespread arrests in drive against terrorists

Red Brigades may be on the run

From John Earle
Rome, April 17

1550 من اجل

Not every beginning looks as promising as today's



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Standard Chartered to consider international financial services for Zimbabwe's development.

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We cannot allow our aged and disabled seafarers from the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Merchant Service, the Fishing Industry to suffer from our lack of funds. Please send a donation or consent to aid us in vital work. And, when preparing your Will, please do not forget us.



BRUCE OIL MANAGEMENT GAME

The finals of the "Bruce Oil Management Game" were held at Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology on Saturday 29th March. The game, a computerised simulated oil field development in the West Shetland Basin, was played by teams from the UK and overseas, from businesses, schools and further education.

The winning teams who made the most "profit" from the development of the field were:-

| BUSINESS SECTION | | Reserves |
|---------------------|--|-----------|
| 1st 'Getty Oil' | Getty Oil (Britain) Ltd., Guildford | £4175.63m |
| 2nd 'Esso Research' | Esso Research Centre, Abingdon | £4173.33m |
| 3rd 'Platform 10' | BP Oil Limited, London | £4171.98m |
| 4th 'The Vikings' | Conoco North Sea Inc, London | £4147.02m |
| COLLEGE SECTION | | |
| 1st 'Proceng' | Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh | £4214.94m |
| 2nd 'Seaoil' | University of Surrey, Guildford | £4025.37m |
| 3rd 'Mast Oil' | University of Wales Institute of Science & Technology, Cardiff | £3987.14m |
| SCHOOL SECTION | | |
| 1st | South East Essex VI Form College | £4096.27m |
| 2nd | Mintlaw School | £3970.92m |
| 3rd | South Cheshire College, Crewe | £3958.43m |

The main prize for the winning team of the business section is a visit to the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston, USA, flying direct from the UK by British Caledonian Airways. The prizes were presented by the Chairman of the Government Committee of Enquiry into Offshore Safety, Dr. J. H. Burgoyne.

The game was devised by Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology in conjunction with "The Press and Journal", Aberdeen, and presented in association with "The Times", The Institute of Petroleum, and British Caledonian Airways.



OVERSEAS

Afghanistan proposes peace meeting with its neighbours

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, April 17

The beleaguered Afghan Government today called for talks with Iran and Pakistan to normalise their relations, and put forward four other proposals which, it said, would ensure peace and security in the region.

Tass reported from Kabul that the central committee of the ruling pro-Soviet Democratic Party has issued the plan to coincide with the second anniversary of the April revolution. This brought the communists to power and provoked the bitter opposition of Muslim tribesmen.

Tass said the Afghan Government proposed calling, without any preliminary conditions, a conference to "normalise the situation in the region as a whole and draft a pact of peace, security and cooperation of the countries of the region".

It also called for talks by the governments of the region on "lowering the level of military spending, reduction of armaments and armed forces with appropriate international guarantees of security".

Two other measures included talks on how to reduce tension and ill-will in the region's media in order to create an atmosphere of confidence and mutual understanding, and regional consultations of countries on the Indian Ocean and Gulf zones to make the two seas a zone of peace with appropriate international guarantees.

Ever since the visit of Mr Shah Muhammad Dost, the Afghan Foreign Minister, to Moscow last month, Western diplomats here have been expecting the Russians to put forward some alternative political initiative to match those calls for neutralization and Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan which Moscow and Kabul have rejected.

The Afghan call is clearly an important attempt by Kabul from our lack of funds. Please send a donation or consent to aid us in vital work. And, when preparing your Will, please do not forget us.

of the Soviet intervention, both of which play important roles in the Islamic conference which has vigorously criticized the Russians and virtually excluded Afghanistan from any further participation.

The most striking feature of the five-point plan is that it constantly refers to countries "of the region" but does not make it clear whether China, a country bordering Afghanistan, would be included in any conference.

The plan also says nothing of the participation of the Afghan refugees now in Pakistan or of the Muslim rebels fighting the Kabul Government. The Russians would also certainly be strongly opposed to either groups taking part.

The offer is a tempting one for Pakistan in particular, since it specifically says that the proposed conference would be held without any preliminary conditions. President Zia has recently begun to make conciliatory overtures to the Russians.

The great value of any conference from Kabul's point of view is that by attending it both Pakistan and Iran would offer the Afghan Government de facto recognition.

The proposal to "reduce the level of military spending, armaments and armed forces" does not commit the Soviet Union to any withdrawal from Afghanistan while at the same time suggesting that Pakistan might negotiate about the amount of military aid it is giving from China and the West.

Furthermore, the proposal does not define what it means by "appropriate international guarantees of security".

However, in spite of the vagueness of the plan, it is clear that the Afghan and the Russians are eager to seek a negotiated solution to the military and political crisis in the region, especially if it can be had on terms guaranteeing the objectives the Russians set themselves when they first went into Afghanistan.

Britain is hopeful on unity

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Britain is reasonably hopeful that economic sanctions against Iran will be agreed by all EEC members when their Foreign Minister meet in Luxembourg on Monday and Tuesday. This surprising forecast of allied solidarity to exert pressure for the release of the American hostages in Tehran was last night being advanced as Mrs Thatcher's firm belief.

The Prime Minister, as she made clear in her response to the Commons last Monday to President Carter's request for help, is determined to do all she can to see that the EEC governments demonstrate their unity with the United States.

Mrs Thatcher is, however, not believed to be seeking an early summit meeting with President Carter, which Mr Callaghan, leader of the Opposition, indicated in the Commons earlier he thought might be desirable.

The Prime Minister is apparently more in touch with President Carter than outsiders have been led to believe, and—although nothing is ruled out—she is prepared to wait until the Venice summit in June before making further personal efforts.

Yesterday at question time Mrs Thatcher disclosed that if a new deadline has been set in Washington for possible action against the Tehran militants she has heard nothing of it.

President Tito: a haemorrhage

Belgrade, April 17.—President Tito suffered a stomach haemorrhage yesterday but his doctors managed to control it, a medical bulletin said today. The condition was described as "very serious".

A message of sympathy has been received from the Queen expressing admiration for the President's statesmanship and her hopes for a speedy improvement in his health.—Agence France-Presse and AP.



Surgical tragedy: Nasreen Banu Khan, aged three, with her father in a New York hospital after suffering from a tragic medical error. Nasreen, from Hyderabad,

India, was operated on by an Indian surgeon to remove an eye affected by cancer. But the surgeon removed the wrong eye. Surgeons in New York had to remove the other eye.

Nine remain split over US call for trade sanctions on Iran

From Michael Horasby
Strasbourg, April 17

EEC member states are still deeply split over how to respond to American demands for trade sanctions against Iran despite last week's agreement at a meeting of the nine foreign ministers in Lisbon on the need to demonstrate solidarity with President Carter.

The initiative taken by the European Commission yesterday in announcing that the Rome Treaty could be used as the legal basis for imposing sanctions has irritated some member states. They see the Commission's move as a unwarranted attempt to bustle the Community into a decision.

A great deal of high pressure diplomacy will be needed over the next few days if differences are to be ironed out in time to enable the foreign ministers to meet in Luxembourg next week to discuss Iran.

In preparatory discussions among EEC representatives this week, the French have argued strongly against the imposition of sanctions, which they do not think will be effective in securing the release of the American hostages. They are even more adamantly opposed to a rupture of diplomatic relations with Iran.

The West Germans who feel more closely dependent on American goodwill for their security than other member states, support the Commission in its view that trade sanctions could be imposed under Article 113 of the Rome Treaty. They insist that such action should be agreed next week.

The British have committed themselves to support President Carter and agree with the Germans that article 113 would be the appropriate legal instrument. However, Britain favours a two-stage approach whereby pressure would be gradually tightened on the Iranians.

In the first stage, collective commercial sanctions could be applied, coupled with restrictions on loans and credit and the cancellation of service contracts under negotiation. (There are, for example, plans for a contract between British Airways and Iran Air to service Iranian aircraft).

If this failed to secure the release of the American hostages, the second stage would go into operation, leading to a full trade embargo and the breaking off of diplomatic links. It is not yet clear what support this two-phase approach has among other member states.

Besides France, other member states with serious doubts about the wisdom and efficacy of the action demanded of the EEC by President Carter are Ireland, Denmark and Italy. The Italians are particularly worried about the possibility of reprisals against the large number of their nationals—said to be about 1,800—living in Iran.

Motion carried: The European Parliament today carried a right-centre motion contemplating the suspension of diplomatic relations with Iran as part of a concerted EC policy. David Wood writes from Strasbourg.

The motion, which originated with British Conservatives, attracted block support from the Christian Democrats and Liberals, was treated as urgent so that it could influence the decisions of the foreign ministers next week.

Several questions by the affair which deeply embarrassed leadership. If the Iranian crisis is as it has seemed, it is a test of the knowledge of it of one body that regulates the leadership of the life and the Soviet population—secret police.

Another question the Russians are a deal with Iran. It would be hard to cooperate with the p of capitalist countries. Soviet Union is not of. Interpol. Direct approaches on a ques would seem to be a ques. Mr Alexander is Minister of Fisheries forced to resign in last year after 14 minister and virtuos time in the ministry have suffered a bear of 73, was reported which also said in article that Mr Prime Minister, has ways of improving f tion with member ministry.

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From David Cross
Washington, April 17

An opinion poll in Britain, West Germany and France specially commissioned for The Washington Post tends to support the growing view of Americans that the allies want the benefits of a military swing United States but are unwilling to share the costs.

The poll, which was conducted by the Gallup organization last month, was displayed prominently on the front page of the Post today under the headline "Europeans uneasy about US". The fact that it was commissioned as it reflects the growing irritation in this country about the lack of support in Western Europe for American policies towards Iran and Afghanistan.

The poll asked samples of about 1,000 people each in Britain, West Germany and France whether American military support was essential to their way of life or whether they could do without it.

It is generally agreed by government officials and foreign observers that those to suffer from the campaign are the new middle-class elements, many of whom were fortunate enough to make big profits during the first five years of the revolution. Many have been dismayed to find the revolutionary zeal continuing, and the official view is that many have slipped into bad ways and are getting no more than they deserve.

Directing the anti-corruption purge are Libya's amorphous revolutionary committees—shadowy bodies which, in the words of an official, can be formed by anyone "to incite the masses to exercise their authority or practise revolutionary supervision". The revolutionary cadres, sitting as prosecutor-judges at the tribunals, are said to have been chosen carefully on the basis of their purity as revolutionaries. What of the justice they mete out? "The anti-corruption campaign is not concerned with condemning individual official informant. This is a condemnation phenomena of corrupt appears that the fate prits has still to be r.

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the West Bank. This suggestion has often been put forward by President Sadat of Egypt but is firmly opposed by Mr Begin.

Reports from Washington indicated that Mr Begin and his colleagues were infuriated by the content and timing of Mr Weizman's attack, but the Israeli Prime Minister refused to comment on the remarks of his Herut Party colleague before his return to Israel tomorrow. He will then hold urgent consultations with the party's central committee.

Many Government supporters were quick to attack Mr Weizman, whose dovish views on settlements and other issues have earned him many enemies among hawks in and outside the Cabinet. Mr Yigal Hurvill, the Finance Minister, said that Mr Weizman must draw the necessary conclusions from his criticism and resign.

Left-wing politicians warmly welcomed the interview and claimed that it added weight to the growing campaign for an early poll.

Although the interview has raised a question mark over both the opposition's and Mr Weizman's future, a number of political observers pointed out that the Government has shown resilience in surviving a number of potentially mortal blows, including last year's resignation of Mr Moshe Dayan.

Conspiracy charge: Thirty Egyptians, accused of conspiring to replace President Sadat's regime by Marxist rule, have been referred to the State Security Court. It is the Government's first move against the left after President Sadat recently announced his intention of concentrating on domestic affairs.

In the indictment, announced yesterday, Mr Ragaa al-Araby, the Attorney-General, accused the group of forming an illegal Communist Party that called for a popular uprising against Mr Sadat and said it had branches in England, France and West Germany.

Leading article, page 17

accepting bribes and salting away funds abroad.

A videotape of the proceedings has been transmitted for an hour or so several nights this week. It is only the latest of a score or more of such programmes which are the public manifestation of an extensive government campaign against corruption.

The campaign has been in progress for the past two months and the accused include bank managers, immigration and customs officials, municipal administrators, contractors, prosperous businessmen, even security agents and military officers up to the rank of colonel.

Libya is attempting to combine speedy material development, financed by its oil wealth, with the austerity of revolutionary socialism. Inevitably, the more questionable aspects of private enterprise—the kick-backs and profiteering—are clashing with the puritanical ideals of Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

The star of this real life production is Mr Badri Ali Hassan, until recently the national director of Libya's Air Lines and now appearing before a revolutionary tribunal accused of large-scale corruption—

From Michael Knipe
Tripoli, April 17

The most compelling viewing on Libyan television at present is a nightly programme with the pungency that only real life drama can produce.

A man sits, in lonely prominence, in the centre of a large, crowded room slumped in a chair before a panel of three of his peers.

The man is sweating. He is plump and wearing the traditional robes of the Maghreb and is clearly in a state of unease. He looks shamefacedly at the floor as the panel, casually dressed in Western style, pour out a litany of accusations. He shifts uneasily in his seat as he makes an abject confession of the error of his ways.

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Export licence doubt for supply vessel

By John Huxley

Britain may decide to refuse an export licence for the "Vespa" supply ship Kiang, built for the Iranian navy by the state-owned Swan Hunter yard at Wallsend. The ship is virtually complete, and Swan Hunter, as agents for the Iranian Government, applied to the Department of Trade for a licence three days ago.

Mrs Thatcher confirmed in a parliamentary answer yesterday that no decision had been taken on whether to release the ship. The Iranians, it is understood, have nearly completed payment. The Prime Minister said, no arms or military equipment had been sent to the Iranians since the United States hostages were taken. That suggested to some MPs that no licence would be granted.

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Huge cav fraud put Kremlin the spot

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, April 17

Publication this week of the great caviar scandal puts the Soviet Union in a difficult position. Should the story be ignored or admitted does publication in affect the decisions of leadership in dealing with the economic scandal of the Second World War?

New people in Most that the story is corroborative evidence snatched from a m sources. In brief, the reported by the two m is that about 200 peo Ministry of Fisheries arrested over the past involvement in the export to the West of this market as being

Earnings were bank and kept b officials personal use on bus to the West.

Soviet sources say many people have kn this swindle for a years, but so far a word of it has appea Moscow Press. The Ministry of Fisher been referred about Ministry of Justice, ministry has decline anything.

The scale of the f was that investigat going on, they hav almost two years.

No only caviar sn involved. Less clari equally criminal a have been carried Moscow, during floes. Far East crews have with Japanese fish exchanged their c money or luxury g Black Sea fishing be been under invest

One reason why the tion has taken so s sources say, is that corruption of lesser o continually brought evidence of corru higher levels, which has led back to th itself.

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OVERSEAS

Executed
raid
Tunisian
racks

April 17.—Thirteen took part in the raid on the mining town of Gafsa, more than 40 people were hanged at dawn the Tunis civil prison, there among the 29 a tried last month by security court were d to death in absentia believed to have fled.

hens were sentenced labour for life, five fia, were given 20 rd labour while nine eived sentences range ive years' hard labour months, suspended Twenty were acqui- changed today were Cherif, the organizer operation, Ahmed his military com- and Muhammad Ammar, Niki, ghemmi, Muhammad Abdelmajid, Suk e Dridi, Muhammad Raouf Smida, Abder- ummi, Abdelkrim and Muhammad Hnidi. ficial Communiqué e the execution re- at 45 people were 103 wounded in the January 27. d on the police and acks was carried out his who crossed into on Algeria.

onisation. Government he guerrillas were ained and financed, nted the charges, t was a popular up- ainst the Tunisian it which subsequently one its ambassador li, and expelled the bassador from Tunis.

Cape Town schools
boycott raises
the spectre of Soweto

From Rex Kennedy
Philadelphia, April 17
Thousands of Coloured students are boycotting classes at schools near Cape Town in protest at "inferior education". The boycott, which has been increasing steadily for three days, has raised the spectre of a repeat of the Soweto riots of 1976, which began with black pupils' objections to the enforced teaching of syllabus subjects in Afrikaans.

The language issue is not among the Cape Town students' grievances—Coloureds (people of mixed blood) are predominantly Afrikaans-speaking. They are calling mainly for the right to establish students' representative councils and the upgrading of teaching standards.

They also want equal pay for teachers, regardless of colour or sex, an adequate supply of textbooks and repairs to school premises.

There has been no sign of violence erupting so far and Mr. Mervyn Styr, Minister of Coloured Relations, has given an assurance that attention will be paid to the pupils' grievances. The police, who were severely criticised in an official report last month for being unprepared and ill-equipped to deal with the Soweto riots, are keeping a low profile.

A squad of policemen in plain clothes kept watch yesterday on pupils at Spies Bona High School in the Athlone district as they marched quietly round the school with placards listing their demands. Pupils at Venterberg Senior Secondary School boycotted classes yesterday for the third day running despite the authorities' agreeing to their demand for the establishment of a pupils' representative council. They said they would

stay out until there was a change in the "racist educational structure".

At Parkwood High School there was a total boycott in protest at conditions at the school and the lack of textbooks, and at Bridgetown High School in the Athlone district there was a noisy demonstration in the grounds.

Students held up placards declaring: "United we stand, divided we fall", "Reject racial education", and "Don't force us out of school to supply cheap labour for capitalism". The Government has been urged to pay earnest attention to the students' grievances by the Cape Teachers' Professional Association. It said: "The fact that legitimate deficiencies in the educational system form the cornerstones of the pupils' grievances indicates that they take their education seriously. The pupils realize that political advancement must be backed by education and they will do nothing that will damage their careers".

Mr. David Curry, national chairman of the Coloured Labour Party, said the Government had ignored repeated representations about conditions in Coloured schools. "Now it looks as if the time is going to blow up in their faces", he added.

Mr. Steven, Coloured Affairs Minister, said the problem of the provision of textbooks would be solved soon. He also said the Coloured Relations Department had no objection to the establishment of students' representative councils, if it would help to get them back to their desks.

He added that there were elements not involved in Coloured education which was stirring up trouble.

Republican candidate's election assertions come under belated scrutiny

American press turns more sceptical eye on Mr Reagan

From Patrick Bragan
Philadelphia, April 17

One of the abiding sorrows of American journalism is the memory of the 1968 election, when it is said that the press failed to question Mr Richard Nixon adequately on his programme and character, and thus failed to inform the public of the nature of the man.

The papers (and television) spent their time working over Mr Hubert Humphrey, who lost by a narrow margin. The more thoroughgoing of journalistic masochists therefore blame themselves for Mr Nixon's many failings in office.

They are now turning their attention, rather belatedly and reluctantly, to Mr Ronald Reagan, promising themselves, their editors and their readers that his policies and his personality will be adequately reported between now and November.

The New Yorker magazine carried a very critical piece about Mr Reagan five weeks ago, Time magazine and CBS News took a cold look at him last week, and other papers and television stations, are at last

devoting time and energy to reporting what he says, and analysing it.

He calls it journalistic incest, and it irritates him. He has been treated very kindly by the press so far, which has spent its time looking at the moles in the eyes of Mr George Bush, Mr John Connally, Mr John Anderson and various Democrats, while ignoring any beams in Mr Reagan's.

There is really nothing more to say about any of these gentlemen. People have heard all they can stand on Chappaquiddick and Mr Kennedy's New Deal economics and so the open season on Ronald Reagan has begun.

He has been saying for months that Alaska has as much oil as Saudi Arabia, and for months a newspaper bathered to point out that the assertion is nonsense. Suddenly the press began to take his claims seriously and carried a series of denials by prominent specialists in the Government and the oil industry to the effect that Mr Reagan's figures were wrong. The candidate stuck to his guns, insisting that

US Elections

his sources were as good as anyone else's. Unfortunately he cannot remember who his sources are.

He has been making speeches and broadcasts on a variety of subjects for 20 years, giving little homilies on texts culled from newspaper clippings and overheard remarks. His speeches are more practised and spontaneous than the laboured offerings of other politicians, whose staffs have studied deeply to fill them with the most up-to-date information. Now that reporters are analysing Mr Reagan's speeches carefully, he will have to change his style.

The oil statistic is an important one for him, because he uses it to justify his contention that there is no energy crisis, that it is all the fault of

the Government which has only to "free" the oil companies to guarantee for the United States as much oil as it could ever need.

If he can be persuaded that, in fact, the United States is not going to become self-sufficient in oil again, then he might be forced to admit that the world is a much more complicated place than he claims to believe it is.

So far, he has not changed his pitch very much. He did withdraw a claim that veterans of the Vietnam war were not eligible for the benefits enjoyed by veterans of earlier wars, and he has admitted that the size of the federal bureaucracy has not increased under President Carter nearly as much as he claimed. He blamed a couple of generals for misleading him over veterans' benefits, and says that his figure on federal employment, though too high, was better than the one offered by CBS News.

This sort of thing will continue, and will become much more serious after the convention when presumably Mr Reagan and Mr Carter will be the

two candidates. Mr Reagan will have to renounce his savoured generalities and patriotic exhortations and get down to specifics.

It was the same trap that nearly lost Mr Carter the 1976 election. He won the nomination on generalities, most notably the claim to be more honest, good, kind, loving and compassionate than anyone else. During the campaign, people wanted to know more about him and his policies, and until quite late in the race he proved unable to offer any convincing policy reasons why he should be preferred to President Ford.

However high inflation and unemployment, however disastrous Mr Carter's foreign policy, his challenger will have to offer a coherent and justifiable policy for the country. The press is probably doing Mr Reagan an immense favour by forcing him (or trying to force him) to stop talking nonsense now. It will give him a much more solid base for the campaign in autumn, and head start over Mr Carter, who has done no campaigning at all.

Karamanlis
presidential
move soon

From Mario Modiano
Athens, April 17

Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, told his cabinet today that he will announce his decision on whether to stand for election as President of the Republic within the next 48 hours.

The 300 Greek deputies were notified today that Parliament will meet next Wednesday to elect the next president. The tenure of President Constantine Tsatsos, who was elected in 1975, expires in June. Mr Tsatsos is likely to be a candidate for reelection only if Mr Karamanlis decides not to stand.

Few Greeks doubt that Mr Karamanlis will seek to become head of state, yet even after today's Cabinet meeting which fixed the date of the presidential election, not one of his ministers could say with absolute certainty what the Prime Minister's decision was.

Under the Greek constitution a two-thirds majority, or 200 votes out of 300, will be needed on Wednesday to elect the president in the first ballot. Mr Karamanlis can count on the support of the 174 deputies of the ruling New Democracy, but the two main opposition parties, which together control 104 seats, are hostile to his election.

Trials of Tolbert officials open
as Monrovia returns to normal

Monrovia, April 17.—Troops of a counter-insurgency unit created by the late President William Tolbert have killed a member of the Liberian military administration that overthrew and killed the President on Saturday, military sources said.

Troops of the unit also tried but failed to ambush some soldiers supporting the People's Redemption Council set up after the coup by Sergeant Samuel Doe, the new head of state, the sources added.

The council member who was killed on Monday has not been identified but the sources said that those responsible were caught and imprisoned.

Mr Tolbert's widow, Victoria, was moved out of prison and placed under house arrest in the presidential mansion, sources close to the ousted True Whig Party said.

Despite pressure from church leaders to secure the release of Mr Tolbert's daughters, one of them, Mrs. Waki Tubman, remained under house arrest while others were in jail.

Monrovia's Robertsfield international airport reopened yesterday as well as a secondary national airport, but border points remained closed and a large-scale search went on for the former President's eldest son, Mr A. B. Tolbert, the country's labour leader, as well

as for the unnamed head of the counter-insurgency unit. A dusk-to-dawn curfew stayed in force but, in day time, Monrovia began to return to normal. Cars filled the streets and many shops and schools reopened.

A five-man military tribunal has begun questioning Mr Joseph Cheson, the former Minister of Justice, in the first trial of a member of the previous government.

Monrovia radio said that Mr Cheson denied having accumulated wealth illegally as Minister of Justice. He also denied suppressing the rights of the people and trying to prevent the formation of a second political party in Liberia. Mr Reginald Townsend, the True Whigs' national chairman, was to be tried today, according to the military station radio Elwa.

The People's Progressive Party, under Mr Gabriel Bacchus Matthews, the present Foreign Minister, was founded in January but banned last month for organizing an anti-Tolbert demonstration at the presidential palace.

After the party had failed to oust the Government with a largely ignored call for a general strike, the public was offered rewards for turning in 20 of its leaders "dead or alive". The leaders were arrested.

The bodies, partly decomposed after being kept without ice in the hot climate, were transported in an open lorry halfway through the town from the John Kennedy Hospital.

Crowds, some of them jeering, braved the smell to take a last look at the dead President.

Bishop Bennie Warner, the former Vice-President, who was attending a meeting of his United Methodist Church in Nashville, Indiana, at the time of the coup, said in Indianapolis that he has sent a telegram to Monrovia tendering his resignation.

Mr Crane
withdraws
from race

Washington, April 17.—Representative Philip Crane is to withdraw from the Republican presidential race and work for the nomination of Mr Ronald Reagan, informed sources said here.

Mr Crane, from Illinois, decided to withdraw after discussing his options with his supporters and with Mr Reagan, the sources said.

They added that Mr Crane wanted to confer with Mr Reagan on the timing of his announcement so that it would have the maximum impact on Mr Reagan's campaign for nomination. Pennsylvania is holding a key primary on Tuesday.

Mr Crane also plans to announce the names of 30 Congressmen who will support Mr Reagan. He is the sixth candidate to drop out of the Republican nomination race.

Mr Crane has picked up only four delegates and has not actively campaigned since the March 18 Illinois primary in which he received only 2 per cent of the vote.

Last week, he sent out a fundraising letter to his 60,000 supporters in which he asked them to advise him on whether to remain in the race. Results were mixed with some respondents urging him to withdraw

Nesty report damns Colombia

Correspondent

to discover "the truth" about Colombian democracy and respect for human rights.

The report does not correspond to "the truth" as President Turbay sees it. According to sources here, Amnesty now considers Colombia in the same class as Argentina and Chile on human rights. The reply will be released with the report.

Apart from normal Government business, the President and his ministers have been working hard for the last few weeks trying to find a formula which will free the foreign diplomats held hostage in the Dominican Republic's embassy here by the M-19 movement.

The Amnesty report is believed to cover a wide range

of charges including the high level of arrests for purely political reasons under a controversial statute of security, the subsequent trials by military tribunals at which defendants are denied defence by civilian lawyers, and the use of torture by security forces.

A clear indication of the Government's eventual response to the Amnesty report has emerged from a Foreign Ministry memorandum to the diplomatic corps, outlining a strategy to discredit Amnesty abroad.

This is followed by the charge that Amnesty probably views M-19's action in seizing the embassy as an "heroic act".

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May 15th/16th/17th Metropole Hotel, Brighton

YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT OUR 1980 CONFERENCE

PENSION PROSPECTS
FOR THE 1980s

AS WE enter a new decade the National Association of Pension Funds has taken "Pension Prospects for the 1980s" as its theme for this year's annual conference. Information to members, Overseas Investment, the Impact of the Microprocessors, the Influence of Europe on UK Pensions, and many other

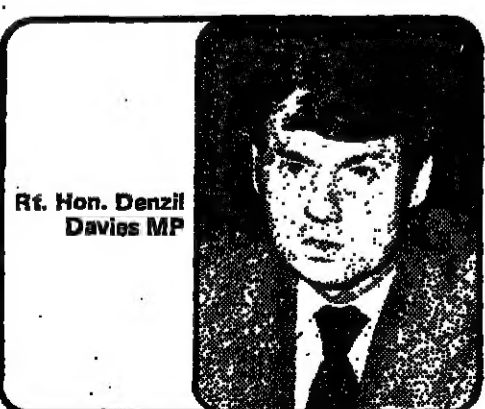
relevant and important topics will be discussed.

As always, the quality of the speakers and the ensuing discussion will be of vital interest to those concerned with the pensions industry.

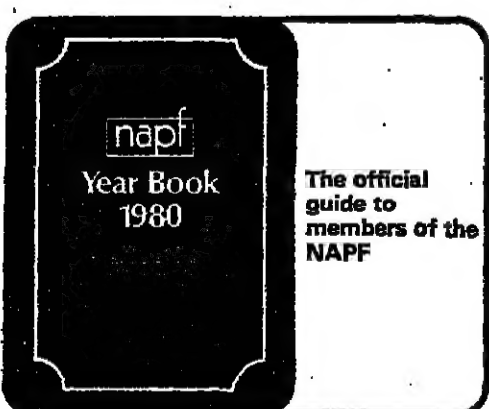
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scheme, insured and privately invested, and in both public and private sectors of industry.

As a national association it makes frequent submissions to Government and is closely concerned with any legislation affecting members. The association is the recognised body and regularly plays an important role in such City organisations as the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers. The association also submitted a great deal of information to the Wilson Committee.



Rt. Hon. Denis Davies MP



NAPF Year Book 1980

The official guide to members of the NAPF

BOOKING FORM

1. The undermentioned place(s) for the above Conference is/are required:

- (a)..... Delegate(s) at £126.50 each (incl. £16.50 VAT) (Members of the Association) £
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NOTE: THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES WHO MAY ATTEND AT THE MEMBERS RATE IS RELATED TO COPY ENTITLEMENT.

The fee for wives covers the cost of the Conference organisation and the organised events in the evening and during the day.

No refunds will be made for individual services that are not used.

The full programme for the conference is:-

Thursday 15 May

2.15 - 2.30 Introduction by the Chairman of Association.
2.30 - 3.30 A.G.M. and brief reports from Committee Chairmen
3.30 - 4.00 Afternoon Tea
4.00 - 6.00 The Treatment of Early Leavers
Speaker: Mr K Cole
4.00 - 5.00 Overseas Investments for Smaller Pension Funds.
Speaker: Mr D Edwards
7.30 - 8.30 Chairman's Reception in the Metropole Hotel.
8.30 onwards Dinner in Conference Hotels

Friday 16 May

9.15 - 10.30 The Provision of Information to Members — a Discussion on the NAPF Proposals.
Introduced by: Mr K M McKeown.
10.30 - 11.00 Morning Coffee
11.00 - 12.15 Pension Funds and the City.
Speaker: the Rt. Hon. Denis Davies MP
12.15 - 2.30 Lunch in the Metropole and Bedford Hotels.
2.30 - 3.45 Mini Computers and Microprocessors.
Speaker: Mr J Turnbull
3.45 - 4.15 Afternoon Tea
4.15 - 5.30 Direction of Investment — Overseas Experience.
Speaker: Mr T Hayes
4.15 - 5.30 The Impact of Europe on UK Pensions.
Speaker: To be advised.
Evening Alternative Social Programme:
A Play in the Theatre Royal, Brighton
A Rod McKuen Concert in The Dome, Brighton.
A Sussex Feast, Drusillas, Alfriston.
Regency Evening, The Old Ship Hotel, Brighton.
Dinner in the Metropole Hotel.

Saturday 17 May

9.15 - 10.30 Member Participation — A Discussion on the NAPF Proposals
Introduced by: Mr J M Young
10.30 - 11.00 Morning Coffee
11.00 - 12.15 Future Prospects for the Stock Exchange
Speaker: Mr Nicholas Goodison
7.30 for 8.00 Banquet in The Metropole Hotel.

DINNER DANCES IN THE METROPOLE HOTEL AND DUDLEY HOTEL

OVERSEAS



Chairman Hua Guofeng with Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Italian Communist leader.

'Inevitability' of war emphasized in Mr Deng's talks with Italians

Peking, April 17.—Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese senior premier, today disclosed some of Peking's broad views which are geared internally for the inevitable war, for the next generation of Chinese leaders.

Mr Deng was speaking to Italian journalists accompanying Signor Enrico Berlinguer, secretary-general of the Italian communist party who is on a nine-day visit to China. The journalists were allowed to sit in on the start of the talks between Mr Deng and Mr Berlinguer at the Great Hall of the People.

Mr Deng adopted a tough line on the Soviet Union, while pointing out that the differences between Peking and the Italian communist party were only minor.

He emphasized Peking's views on the inevitability of war, which have not been voiced here since the beginning of the international crisis in December last year.

with the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The differences between China and the Soviet Union were more than a simple dispute, Mr Deng said. The Soviet Union was posing a serious threat to China through the deployment of over a million troops along China's borders, its increased support for Vietnam, and its intervention in Afghanistan.

"These threats have increased since the Soviet Army entered Afghanistan," Mr Deng said, adding that war must be delayed as long as possible as China hoped there would be no such confrontation for at least 20 years.

On China's relations with the United States, which were normalized in January last year, Mr Deng said that these relations were "not only a simple tactical choice but a choice of long-term strategy".

Moving to Chinese domestic affairs, Mr Deng said that Zhao Ziyang, who has just been made a vice-premier and

is known to be very close to Mr Deng, would now be in charge of "day to day affairs", implicitly confirming that Mr Zhao would succeed him at the head of government.

Mr Deng has already made it known that he intends to give up his Government positions while holding on to his party functions. Turning to Mr Berlinguer, Mr Deng pointed out that he was in good shape but was 76 and ought to start getting ready to see Karl Marx.

Even though Chairman Hua Guofeng is theoretically the country's leader at the head of the communist party and Government, Mr Deng has set up the team over the last few months that will take over from him.

On Eurocommunism, Mr Deng said: "We only know a little about Eurocommunism but we take into consideration every new element which comes up."

Nine Indian states go to polls in May

Pohit, April 17.—Elections in nine Indian states whose governments were dismissed last January by Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, will be held at the end of May, it was officially announced today.

The state governments, denounced as unrepresentative by Mrs Gandhi, were removed from office after she regained power with a huge victory in national elections the previous month. All nine were headed by members opposed to Mrs Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

She is now gambling on repeating her national election victory in the state elections, which will be held from May 27-30. Nearly 200 million people will be entitled to vote.

The nine states—Orissa, Punjab, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand—have been under direct central government rule since their administrations were dissolved in a move which discredited nine state governments after its 1977 election victory.

The state of Manipur one student was killed and another injured when police opened fire on violent groups which tried to disrupt the holding of high school examinations today.

The conduct of examinations throughout Manipur was affected, and normal life in Imphal, the state capital, and some other places was disrupted in the protest organized by students and youths demanding deportation of "foreign nationals" from the state.

The report said, quoting police sources, that police had to open fire at two places to disperse students throwing stones and indulging in arson. Two school buildings were set on fire.

At the examinations started this morning, groups of students disrupted them at various centres. There were also violent incidents in Imphal market—Petter and Agence France-Press.

Uproar in Queensland over Bill to curb abortion

From Douglas Aiton Melbourne, April 17

After the extension of police powers announced in the Queensland Parliament last week, there is now a move to tighten the law on abortion.

If Mr Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, the conservative Premier, has his way, which seems likely, abortions in Queensland will be permitted only to save women from death or serious physical injury. The legislation will be introduced in Parliament within a week.

The Bill will provide for 14-year jail terms with hard labour for doctors who perform illegal abortions. Women who induce their own miscarriages may be jailed for seven years, also with hard labour, and police will be given wide access to the records of doctors and public hospitals.

Women who become pregnant after being raped or are considered likely to produce a seriously deformed child will not be allowed abortions.

The legislation appears so extreme that it may have difficulty getting through Parliament. It would be far and away the toughest anti-abortion code in Australia and would close the few existing fertility control clinics in Queensland.

The draft is still being discussed by leaders of the National Party and the Liberal Party, who form Queensland's coalition government.

Earlier this week, Mrs Rose-

mary Kyburz, a Liberal backbencher, described the Unborn Children's Protection Bill, as it is named, as "a fascist piece of legislation with absolutely no concern for women".

It is causing such tension between the two coalition parties that the Government could fall. There were extraordinary scenes in Parliament last week, with the Premier moving to oust dissenting Liberals from the Government, and several threats of physical violence.

During a rowdy meeting of the two parties, Mr Ronald Camm, deputy leader of the National Party, shouted at a Liberal: "Shut up, I've had enough from you," to which Mr Bjelke-Petersen rejoined: "We're a club, Ron. Give it to him."

Later, when Mr Bruce Bishop, a Liberal called "Cut it out John" to the Premier, Mr Russell Hince, the Local Government Minister shouted: "We'll fix you too, Bishop."

Mr Bishop retorted: "We're a club and Mr Hince rushed towards Mr Bishop's seat, rolling up his sleeves as he went, shouting: "I'll fix you, you mongrel." Another Liberal blocked Mr Hince's path.

Irish soldier's kidneys donated by his family

Tel Aviv, April 17.—The kidneys of an Irish soldier in the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon have been donated by his family to a Jewish man and an Arab girl.

Private Stephen Griffin died yesterday in Haifa of a head wound suffered during clashes with Lebanese Christian militia in Al-Tiri on April 7.

The transplant operations were carried out at the Haifa hospital soon after his death—A.P.

Barnard offer to kidnappers of ambassador

San Salvador, April 17.—Dr Christian Barnard, the South African heart transplant pioneer, has offered to perform free operations in El Salvador if the kidnappers release the kidnapped South African ambassador.

He signed lengthy advertisements published by San Salvador newspapers yesterday urging the terrorists to free the ambassador, Mr Archibald Gardner Dunn.

In them he said: "I urge the Popular Liberation Forces to have pity, to return Mr Dunn to his family." He said the diplomat was a man "whose only crime was to represent his country". He would be willing to perform free heart operations in El Salvador if they would help in any way to gain Mr Dunn's freedom.—U.P.

23 crew rescued

Durban, April 17.—The Mauritius, a 3,000-ton cargo vessel, sank rough seas about 60 miles north-east of here today but the 23 crew members were rescued, maritime officials said.

The southern coastal towns of Masan and Pusan.

Several thousand people, mainly students, stormed through the streets, attacking police boxes and public buildings. Troops moved in and subdued the rioters and the murder of the President soon afterwards shocked the country into inactivity for several months.

The past month has brought a wave of campus rallies, sit-ins and hunger strikes. The students are demanding the expulsion of staff who they feel were close to the Park regime. They are objecting to compulsory military training and are insisting on "full academic rights", the freedom to elect representatives on university and college councils.

The Government, which is dangling the carrot of a free presidential election next year and eventually full democracy, has so far showed restraint. Even when university property

was damaged, demonstrations were allowed to continue.

President Choi Kyu Hah and Mr Kim Ok Gil, the Education Minister, have made it clear that they are not unsympathetic to the students' cause and allow that many aspects of campus management need changing. But the authorities are haunted by the spectre of large riots that could develop if the students continue to demand an instant pact.

President Choi issued a statement this week deploring the students' actions and warning them and the university authorities that their differences must be settled by discussion and cooperation.

April 19 will be a particularly tense day. It is the twentieth anniversary of the student uprising in 1960 in which 185 people died, more than 1,800 were injured and President Syngman Rhee was overthrown.

Foreign Report is on page 18

S Korea's students flex their muscles

From Jacqueline Reditt Seoul, April 17

More than half of South Korea's 37 colleges and universities have been affected by student demonstrations in recent weeks. Over 70 professors, including four university presidents, have resigned and more than 20 colleges and universities have suspended classes. Eight months ago that would have been unthinkable.

Under the strictly authoritarian rule of the late President Park, students like everyone else—had to toe the party line and campus demonstrations were immediately and sometimes brutally quelled by armed riot police. Dissident students risked expulsion, loss of civil rights and even imprisonment.

But in 1979 there were reports of small student disturbances in different parts of the country and, shortly before the assassination of President Park in October, riots broke out in

Chamber tomb of Guernsey keeps its secrets

From Our Correspondent St Peter Port

A chamber tomb at the 6,000-year-old site discovered near Guernsey's golf course will keep its secrets for another year.

Dr Ian Kinnes, of the British Museum, who has been leading a dig at the site, returns to the United Kingdom this weekend after deciding not to penetrate the tomb.

The chamber has been sealed for centuries and was found by a digger who was working on a new house. The digger was told that there was a risk of damaging the chamber.

The dig had exceeded all his expectations, he said. The site was one of the most important archaeological finds for many years, and was likely to be a yardstick for other sites.

The dig had revealed five layers of occupation, between 4,000 and 2,000 B.C.

Carpet from Glamis Castle attic is sold for £100,000

By Geraldine Norman

A carpet woven for Glamis Castle in about 1620 was bought at Sotheby's yesterday for £100,000 by the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Edinburgh.

It had been consigned for sale by Sir Strathmore, who had found it rolled up in the attic at Glamis and brought it down to use in the drawing room, without realizing its age and rarity.

It is one of the handful of early carpets woven in Britain that have survived. It belongs to a group which were copied by British weavers from five carpets brought back from the Mughal court of the Emperor Akbar by the artist and designer John De Witt.

The design is essentially Indo-Persian, but the wool and

Law Report April 17 1980

European Community law on equal pay paramount

Macarthy Ltd v Smith

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Cuming-Brace.

By virtue of the European Communities Act, 1972, article 119 of the EEC Treaty, which provides for the application of the principle that "men and women should receive equal pay for equal work", prevails over the Equal Pay Act, 1970, as amended by the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975.

After receiving answers to questions referred last July to the European Court of Justice under article 177 of the Treaty (1973) ICR 785, the Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by employers, Macarthy Ltd, wholesale dealers in printed circuit products, from a decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (1978) 1 WLR 849 which had dismissed their appeal against a decision of an industrial tribunal that the company's employees, Mrs Wendy Smith, was entitled to equal pay commensurate with that paid by the employers to her male predecessor, Mr McCullough.

The industrial tribunal had held that she had been employed on like work with Mr McCullough, but that she was paid only £50 a week whereas he received £60.

Mr Robert Turner for the employers, Mr Anthony Lamer, QC, Mr Charles Welchman and Mr Christopher McConnell for Mrs Smith.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that though the court was at present only concerned with costs, the matter was of some public importance.

Mrs Smith had been employed at a salary of £50 a week. When she found that the previous occupant of the job was paid £60 a week, she had been paid £50 a week she took proceedings under the Equal Pay Act, 1970, claiming that her pay should be equal to his.

On the point of law the Employment Appeal Tribunal held that the Act did apply to successive employers, but that it was not applicable to women who were employed at the same time.

In his Lordship's court the majority, his Lordship dissenting, is causing such tension between the two coalition parties that the Government could fall.

European Communities Act, 1972. It had to be given priority if it was inconsistent with an English statute. It was said that when one looked at article 119—which was part of our law—there was no requirement that employment of men and women should be contemporaneous and that the equal pay provision applied as much to successive employment as to contemporaneous employment.

As the position was uncertain, their Lordships had referred four questions to the European Court and had now been provided with that court's decision. It was important that it should be made.

Miss Carol J. Ellis, who has been made a Queen's Counsel, has been editor of *The Law Reports* and the *Weekly Law Reports* for the last 18 years. Since 1974, the *Weekly Law Reports* were first published in 1985 by the newly formed Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales a number of editors were QCs when appointed, but this is the first time that a sitting editor has taken silk.

Not only is it a recognition of Miss Ellis's editorship, but also it reflects the importance which the Lord Chancellor's Office attaches to the work of law reporters generally. It is the council's law reporters, all of them barristers, who write the law reports which appear in *The Times*.

The answer the European Court gave to the question referred was that there was no need for contemporaneity. The article was applicable when a woman was employed on like work with a man who was employed at the same time.

That interpretation had now to have priority, which meant that Mrs Smith was right. She was entitled to £60 a week, which her predecessor had and the employers' appeal must be dismissed.

As to costs the employers argued that as they were right under the English Act the costs of their appeal to the Court of Appeal should not fall on them; and indeed before the European Court they argued for the "contemporaneous" interpretation.

The majority of the court took the view that there was no ambiguity about the relevant words of the Equal Pay Act and that if there was no ambiguity the majority view was that it was not appropriate, according to English canons of construction, to look outside the statute at article 119 as an aid to construction.

That was clearly right, it was said, but it was clear that there had been of the view that there was an ambiguity in the English statute he would have considered it appropriate to look at article 119 in order to determine the ambiguity.

Solicitors: Baileys, Shaw & Gillett; John L. Williams.

Queen's Beach Division

Aggregation of child's resources wrong

Young v Supplementary Benefits Commission

Before Mr Justice Comyn

Payments made to the mother of an illegitimate child by the father for the child's maintenance and education, pursuant to an order made under the Child Support Act, 1975, must not be aggregated with the mother's resources under paragraph 3(2) of the Supplementary Benefits Act, 1976, for the purpose of determining the amount of the mother's supplementary benefit.

His Lordship allowed an appeal by Mrs Veda Laine Young, of Sherborne, Dorset, from a decision of Youthful Supplementary Benefits Appeal Tribunal, on appeal from a decision of the Supplementary Benefits Commission granting a supplementary allowance of £24.40 a week to the mother of a child, aged 16, who was the daughter of her one-year-old daughter, who was aggregated with her resources.

The commission was granted leave under section 13(3A) of the Act to appeal to the House of Lords, to lodge a "leapfrog" appeal direct to the House of Lords.

Paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the Act provides: "Where a person has to provide for the requirements of another person who is a member of the same household as the person, (a) the resources of that other person may, and if he has not attained the age of 16, shall be, aggregated with, and those of the first mentioned person; and (b) where their requirements are so aggregated, their resources shall be similarly aggregated."

Mr Hamlyn Isidore, QC, and Mr Christopher Wilson, QC, for Mrs Young; Mr Andrew Collins for the commission.

His Lordship said that Mrs Young was separated from her husband, who was not the father of the child, born in March, 1975. In June, 1975, Sherborne magistrates made an order in proceedings under the Affiliation Proceedings Act, for the true father to pay £28 a week to Mrs Young (as required by the Act) for the maintenance and education of her daughter. The commission had decided that the father's resources should be taken into account in calculating Mrs Young's entitlement to supplementary benefit.

Between the date of the tribunal's decision and the date of the hearing judgment had been given in *Supplementary Benefits Commission v. Young* (1979) 1 WLR 849. On that point, one had only to consider the proposition to realize the fallacy it contained. One could, and frequently did, have a very serious husband—by a knife or a gun, the knife thrust being parried or the gun having been wrongly aimed—which resulted in no injury.

There were differences in the two cases. It might well be that his Lordship would be leaptfrogged as well, since whatever decision was reached, it would produce the same result. To decide for the mother would increase her entitlement to supplementary benefit considerably. The Commission argued that, might cause the commission to have to spend many more thousands of pounds a year. It was said that the Commission was the way to abuse. That possibility did not carry any weight since there was always potential abuse where money was concerned.

Both counsel said that one must look at the whole structure of the Supplementary Benefits Act as if it were a single piece of legislation. To decide for the mother would increase her entitlement to supplementary benefit considerably. The Commission argued that, might cause the commission to have to spend many more thousands of pounds a year. It was said that the Commission was the way to abuse. That possibility did not carry any weight since there was always potential abuse where money was concerned.

Authority apart, his Lordship thought that Mr Hamlyn Isidore was right. The words appeared in a statute, a legal instrument, and should not be given a loose, colloquial interpretation. There was a serious difference between the words in paragraph 3(2) and the phrase "able to maintain" in section 14. To the question of whether the mother provided for the child, the answer was that she provided care and supplied what the father's money provided.

There was another reason for that. The words "able to maintain" were a legal term, and should not be given a loose, colloquial interpretation. There was a serious difference between the words in paragraph 3(2) and the phrase "able to maintain" in section 14. To the question of whether the mother provided for the child, the answer was that she provided care and supplied what the father's money provided.

The appeal would be allowed and the case remitted to the tribunal to recalculate Mrs Young's entitlement in accordance with the judgment.

Solicitors: Park Nelson & Doyle Devonshire for Clarke, Willmott & Clarke, Yeovil; Solicitor, DBS.

Fallacious direction

Regina v Hamilton

Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Court of Appeal, said that it was not only misleading, but also fallacious, to direct a judge to judge between two versions of a crime, one of which was a more serious one than the other.

His Lordship said that the judge should not be asked to choose between two versions of a crime, one of which was a more serious one than the other. He said that the judge should be asked to choose between two versions of a crime, one of which was a more serious one than the other.

The answer was plain. Community law was part of our law. It was as though a point had been taken about inconsistency between the English Act of 1972 and the court had to decide which should have priority. The party who lost in such an argument would have to pay the costs in the Court of Appeal in the ordinary way.

Those behind Mrs Smith did not ask for the costs of the reference to the European Court because of a special arrangement which applied to the particular case, though it might not apply to other cases.

The appeal should be dismissed and the costs in the Court of Appeal should be paid by the unsuccessful employers.

Lord Justice Lawton agreed.

Lord Justice Cuming-Brace, also agreed, and said that he had drawn attention to an article by Professor O. Hood Phillips in the *Law Quarterly Review* for January, 1980, which apparently expressed the view that the decision in the present case in 1979 had created a doubt about the constitutional position arising from a conflict between an English statute and European law.

His Lordship did not think that there was any real room for doubt, and if anything he had said had given rise to doubt it was based on a misunderstanding. His Lordship said that he had said in the judgment, namely, that if the terms of the Treaty were adopted in Luxembourg, to be consistent with the provisions of the Equal Pay Act, 1970, European law would prevail over the English Act. He had said that such a judgment in Luxembourg could not affect the meaning of the English statute.

Perhaps he had expressed himself a little bit too widely there. The majority of the court took the view that there was no ambiguity about the relevant words of the Equal Pay Act and that if there was no ambiguity the majority view was that it was not appropriate, according to English canons of construction, to look outside the statute at article 119 as an aid to construction.

That was clearly right, it was said, but it was clear that there had been of the view that there was an ambiguity in the English statute he would have considered it appropriate to look at article 119 in order to determine the ambiguity.

Solicitors: Baileys, Shaw & Gillett; John L. Williams.

Court of Appeal

ENTERTAINMENTS

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| Musical notes at top center to showday just before performance | | When performing with revellers on stage, London Water-pipe men are not alone in their fun. | |
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THE ARTS

A brilliant but 'inaccessible' mirror on family life

Mirror (U)

Camden Plaza

Rocky II (A)

London Pavilion

Poto and Cabengo

ICA Cinema

Boardwalk (AA)

Classic, Chelsea

The wretched introduction to the season of Soviet films now showing at the National Film Theatre contains this line: "Any encounter with a cinema so accessible must raise more questions than can be answered within a short season." The fate of Soviet films which are not accessible is neatly demonstrated by the example of Andrei Tarkovsky's *Mirror*, which arrives in London this week.

All Soviet artists must make their work "accessible" to the masses. If they do not, they are castigated and their work is suppressed. Within this atmosphere of intrusive, paternalist philistinism the Soviet artist has either bowed to his masters or lived in despair. Thus Dmitri Shostakovich was prompted to make his "reply to just criticism" and buried his sadness in his music.

Film-makers are further cursed with Lenin's thoughts on cinema. Like Gorbachev, Lenin understood the power of films as a popular art and the Soviet authorities have been trimming Soviet films into a popular mould ever since, from Sergei Eisenstein to Sarmis Paradjanov. If films are not considered popular enough in their appeal, they are given a "third category" status—official disapproval and banishment to small, uncomfortable halls on the fringes of cities with limited screenings.

This fate befell Tarkovsky's *Mirror*, which was deemed not "accessible" enough. It is certainly not an easy film to understand. When I saw it two years ago in Paris, I was left puzzled. And, seeing it again this week, my bewilderment is, if anything, more severe.

But, while difficult to understand, there is no doubt as to the film's artistic worth or Tarkovsky's genius. It is a dazzlingly beautiful film, fascinating in its visual splendour, testing in its leaps forward and backward in time and its wandering, disjointed plot. I shall happily return to it again and again, as I revisit favourite paintings or reread special books.



A scene from childhood: Alexei, representing Tarkovsky as a boy, trudges home from school

The other sin which Tarkovsky committed in making *Mirror* was to make an autobiographical film. Officially approved Soviet films must be "objective", telling of a general experience. Tarkovsky's previous films, *Andrei Rublev* and *Solaris*, were criticised and restricted on this ground. It would be a foolish person who could say with any certainty that *Mirror* is about in detail, but Tarkovsky has explained that it is about his upbringing, his mother and father, his wife and his understanding of world events during his childhood.

The film is a Tarkovsky family effort. The voice of his father, Arseny Tarkovsky, a poet, is heard reading his work

to accompany certain scenes and Tarkovsky's mother, L. Tarkovskaya, plays the mother of the narrator, an invisible presence who represents Tarkovsky himself.

Incidents in Tarkovsky's childhood are re-staged—timid, shy, a boy who is bullied, cracking of the camera allows all the details of a scene to be noticed and enjoyed. Old newsreels, with some heroic footage of the Red Army on the march, add a sense of community to the film.

It is an experience which should not be missed. The film is restricted to Soviet audiences, the authorities are pleased for it to be released abroad in

order to earn the precious foreign currency needed to plug the holes in the imperfect Soviet economy.

In 1976 the Oscar for best picture went to *Rocky*, directed by Sylvester Stallone, about a no-hoper boxer whose determination leads him to fight for the world heavyweight championship. The film's likable verve was maintained by Stallone's own determination that this, his first film, turned down by every studio except the last, should be a success. Stallone achieved his ambition but *Rocky* lost on points.

Rocky II is not so much a sequel as a remake of the original. The cast remains intact—

Stallone himself as the boxer, Talia Shire his timid wife, Burgess Meredith his plucky trainer—and only the ending of the film has been changed, and even then not by very much. It is as if *Rocky* had been reassembled frame for frame, blow for blow, but with a happier ending.

The story of *Poto and Cabengo* is not as interesting as it at first appears. In 1977 as it first appeared, Grace and Virginia Kennedy were discovered by speech therapists in their own language. At the age of six they could not speak English. The case was fascinating to linguists and attractive enough for Jean-Pierre Gorin, a French film-maker who had written scripts for Jean-Luc Godard, to bring a camera and crew to record the discovery.

The film is disappointing. The girls, it turns out, had not made up their own language but were victims of their parents' and grandmothers' woefully inadequate vocabulary. The father spoke with a Georgian drawl, the mother in broken English, and both would slip in and out of German to contact the wife's mother, who shared their home and who, in the many years she had lived in America, had only grasped a handful of English words.

Gorin's film is hardly articulate, presenting the evidence in a ramshackle way narrated by himself in Chevalier English and most uncritical of the opinions of the therapists, whose own speech is shockingly imprecise and lazy. His inability to explain the events clearly is made up for, in part, by his good sense in noticing how the whole family had suffered by the intrusive inquisitiveness of the press.

Boardwalk brings to mind those eerie propaganda films of the Third Reich which showed German speakers in countries soon to be invaded being harassed and victimized by the local population, usually incited by book-nosed Jews. In *Boardwalk*, ironically, it is the Jewish community in Coney Island, Brooklyn, who are terrorized by a gang of black muggers.

Directed with conspicuous film-school style by Stephen Verona, the film shows no discretion, overkill the dubious moral messages about racial harmony and sickeningly indulgent in its milking of the geriatric *Love Story* element, in which Ruth Gordon hams to a suitably bored-looking Lee Strasberg. Janet Leigh is among a solid cast who try but fail to save the film from absurdity.

Nicholas Wapshott

The Barber of Seville Coliseum

Paul Griffiths

The English National Opera's new *Barber of Seville* has been slow and uncertain in making its way to London. After starting its career two years ago in Southsea, it was restaged last year and reached the Coliseum on Wednesday evening in this re-production by Patrick Libby with sets designed by Stephen Addison. But still the company has not got it quite right.

Updating the action to the time of the opera rather than that of the play ought to have a clarifying effect on personalities and relationships, but in fact a place of artificial gains nothing from being cleared of periwigs and brocades. Frances Tempest's Regency costumes are attractive and nicely blended in a scheme of brown, mustard and lemon. Figaro becomes quite the snappy dresser. However, the production fails to follow up the suggested line of realism and merely loses a formality that could have been useful in establishing a comic style.

However, there were always the beauties of the set to be inspected, a cool and spacious interior in black and beige. The Figaro was Niall Murray, who made much of the broad smiles and winsome charms he customarily brings out for comic effect. The interpretation was not too different from his Pappageno. As the opera progressed it became hard to resist his vitality and sense of fun, but he did rob the character of dignity in playing him as a cheeky errand boy.

This staging certainly needs some defter work. The chorus in the first act moved about without any imagination and in a manner oblivious to the movement of the music. In the second and third acts the few successful bits of business appear to be due to the inventiveness and luck of the cast, particularly Eric Shilling as Dr Bartolo, rather than to any keen eye for detail on the part of the producer.

Graham Clark, singing Almaviva, craved our indulgence in advance for his brashness, and he will surely bring a fuller sound to what is already a clear and intelligent performance. But it is, however, to outstrip the Rosina of Della Jones, characterful throughout her voice and producing a generous supply of appealing tone. Any awkwardness in her coloratura was to be attributed to the impossibility of fitting Rosina's wobbles comfortably to English vowels, for her Italian aria was thrown off with exhilarating assurance.

Against Mr Shilling's rusty, finicky Bartolo, Gwynne Howell was nicely lank and down in voice, as in bearing, as Don Basilio, and there was an expressive Berta from Rosalind Forster. The orchestra, directed by Noel Davies, was too heavily tied to the beat to help redress the lack of brilliance and sparkle in the acting.

The Magic Flute Sadler's Wells

Stanley Sadie

Kent Opera have long enjoyed a reputation for their readiness to rethink operas that others take for granted. *The Magic Flute*, always liable to become excessively solemn in performance, too heavily Germanic, is firmly pushed the opposite way in their revival.

But unfortunately it did not quite suit. Roger Norington's chief departure is over matters of tempo. Practically every item goes faster than anyone is likely to have heard it before. Often this is beneficial, especially as it is coupled with clear textures and airy articulation: the music for the lighter characters, Papageno and Monostatos, had a delightful springiness, most of all the Act II quintet with the Ladies in the Woods. But Sarastro's establishment gains substantially.

Elsewhere, however, the effect was that the music was diminished, its impact sharply lessened. For, like it or not, *The Magic Flute* is a profound opera, about the mysteries of the human soul: take it too breezily and you dispel those mysteries. Sarastro cannot be asked to utter his thoughts on Isis and Osiris at a jolly trot; Pamina cannot express anguish without being allowed time to share her phrases expressively (indeed, the tempo for the first of the "duets" had gradually to broaden to permit something of that); the Boys cannot be expected to inject a sense of hieratic gravity—of which their pulchritudinously sure is meant to speak—if they have to deliver it so perkily. Sometimes seriousness obstinately broke through and the sheer moment of the music and of what it had to say forced Mr Norington to modify his aims. But more often his spiritless reduction of the work, and us in the end with the trivial tones of a *Magic Piccolo*.

Vocally it was distinguished most of all by Meryl Drower's Pamina, warm, spirited, bright of tone; her Tamino, Peter Jeffes, offered some musical glancing and manly, characterful sound. Alan Watt made an amusing common-man Pappageno with one or two good touches of whimsy; the Sarastro was inadequate, and the Queen of Night, Marianne Blok, less than sure though providing some darkly gleaming notes here and there.

Last night's television

The Executioner BBC 1

Michael Church

Last night's Play for Today by Lionel Goldstein was a curiously uneasy exercise dedicated to inspiring in its audience a curious unease. It opened with the neutral blandness normally associated with routine documentaries, a motorway arrest, right-lipped protests from the civilized middle-aged protagonist, and the implication that a wartime horror suddenly exploded would be deftly and painlessly dealt with.

It then became apparent that the protagonist was morbidly confused. He had once taken the law into his own hands and murdered an SS man after first making sure he was his own grave. He had long since squandered the matter with his conscience but here he was, 30 years later, consciously risking arraignment by setting foot

once more on German soil. The nature of the psychological business he had thus chosen to finish surprised both him and everyone round him; resisting increasingly desperate advice to make a comfortable plea of manslaughter he found himself definitely opening up questions about the moral basis on which war crimes were now being tried. The do-it-yourself execution had been merely a temporary palliative, and he had been left with an obsessive desire to resurrect his victim's shade and put it on permanent trial.

The main thrust of *The Executioner* was psychological, concerned as it was both to delineate a lifelong obsession with revenge and also to describe the contemporary German ambivalence towards their past, as their natural desire to sweep it under the carpet gradually triumphed over the masochistic determination to keep it grinning down at them from the mantelpiece.

The private theme was, in the event, slightly more successfully handled than the public one. Paul Rogers nicely portrayed the central character's disintegration and subsequent recovery as he faced up to his true feelings and accepted his Jewish background, and the scenes between him and his wife (Joyce Redman) were tersely effective. Much of the action concerned the protagonist's encounters with officials, however, and here we got stereotypes rather than characters, and dialogue which was too perfunctory to be dramatic.

Under Ken Ives' characteristically austere direction the cast were induced to inject the plot with as much drive and urgency as it would bear, but for no much of the time the actor seemed concerned to hammer home his important message rather than to tell a story; hence the unease of the exercise.

BBCSO/Cleobury/Groves Festival Hall/Radio 3

William Mann

Wednesday's Royal Philharmonic Society concert was planned for Gennadi Rozhdestvensky to conduct, and was typical of his recent programmes with the BBC Symphony Orchestra—a Russian work and two by living English composers. This season the RPS is featuring concertante works by British composers of this century. So here was Walton's much loved violin concerto, first heard here 39 years ago at an RPS concert, then played by Henry Holst (the dedicatee, Jascha Heifetz, unable to cross the Atlantic in wartime), this time by György Pauk.

As a match for it Rozhdestvensky would conduct the first London performance of William Alwyn's fifth and most recent

symphony, composed as long ago as 1973, but familiar from a fine performance on records, perhaps including here as a tribute to the composer's forthcoming seventy-fifth birthday. The other symphony was Prokofiev's fifth, and it so happens that both Russian works include a passing but distinct salute to their Soviet colleague.

In the event, Rozhdestvensky was declared unwell, and the programme was parcelled out between Nicholas Cleobury, who conducted the Alwyn, and Charles Groves who undertook the rest. It must be said that Mr Cleobury, hitherto best known as an organist, made a fine job of the Alwyn symphony.

Alwyn's 5 is subtitled *Hydrotaphia*, a thanksgiving for life-long enjoyment of Sir Thomas Browne's *Urn Burial*; those who have relished that golden prose will not find the topic morbid. Each of Alwyn's four movements in some way reflects a quotation from the book

It is Alwyn's shortest, most concentrated symphony, I think his most elegant. Sometimes the music of the earlier symphonies seems to rival it, and it is high time that concert audiences became more familiar with the extraordinarily idiosyncratic and fascinating symphonies of this composer, a radical conservative with allegiances to the world.

I hope that Rozhdestvensky will one day conduct it for us himself, and the Walton fiddle concerto. He has so much to tell us about our own music, as indeed has Mr Pauk on the violin. In 1939, and Heifetz, Walton's ditty, florid runs, admittedly, were rushed off their feet (Heifetz allowed you to hear, not only every note, but the gaps in between), but the luscious melodies gained everything from Pauk's knowledge of Hungarian gypsy fiddling. When he swooned into the second subject of the finale, Heifetz was forgotten; there was only Walton's music.

cal) must be sought out carefully.

Sarah Walker and Thomas Hemsley on Wednesday chose 24 of the songs—10 sacred before the interval and 14 of the profane afterwards. Both singers were in fine voice. I enjoyed the fragile delicacy of Sarah Walker's "Die ihr Schwäber" (expertly accompanied by Roger Vignoles) and the even tenderness of Mr Hemsley's "Der heilige Josef singt".

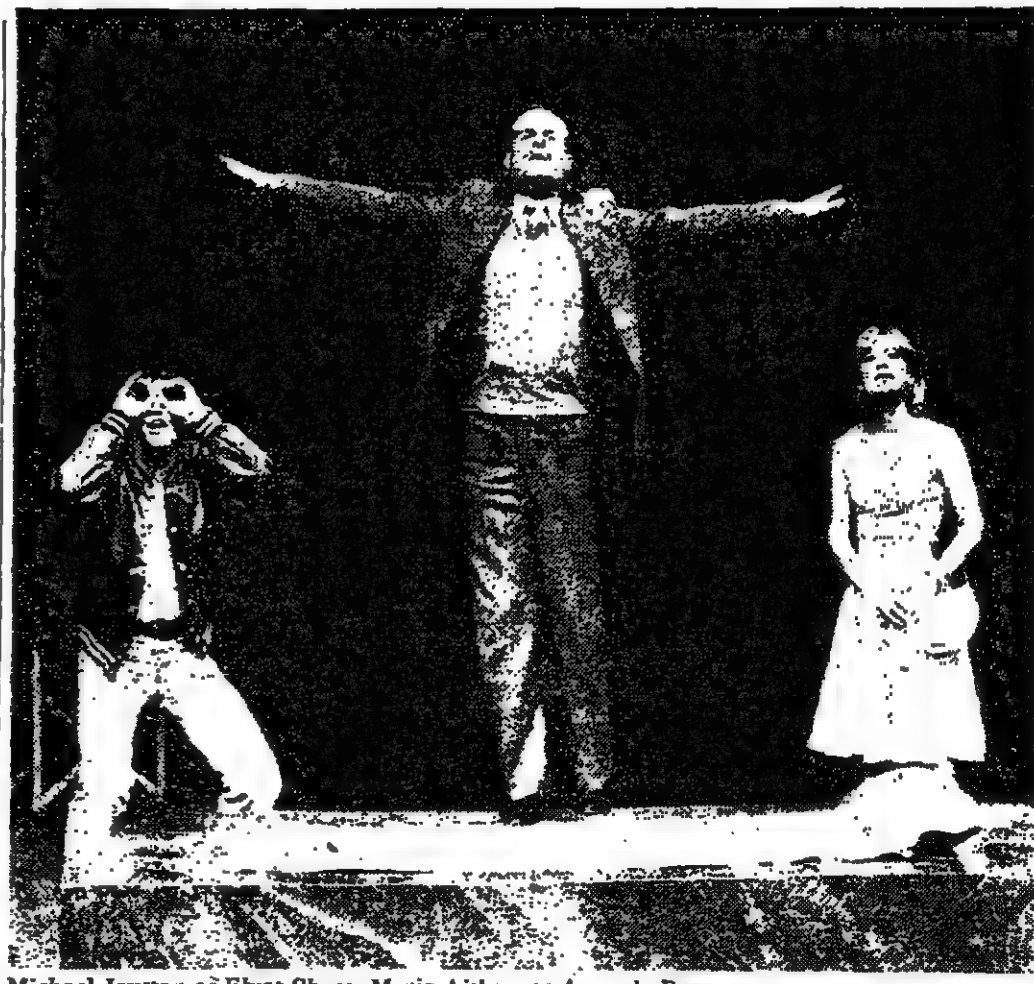
His treatment of "Herr, was trübt der Boden hier", a dialogue between Christ and the soul, was particularly moving in its contrasting voice colours, its eloquent, broken phrases, within unbroken breaths.

But there was still more passion and intensity, I felt,

to be drawn out of these vocal settings—a greater vocal expressiveness to match the often disturbing harmonies.

Similarly, in the secular songs there could have been a touch more whimsy—in, for instance, Hemsley's "Treibe nur mit Lieben Sport" (a sharper observance of the dotted notes would have helped) and Walker's "Köpfchen, Köpfchen" which, nevertheless, had some nicely calculated half-tones.

Both singers seemed to relish more the sombre settings: Hemsley's "Alle gingen, Herz zur Ruh", with its dark, strong vowels, and his "Komm, O Tod" showed a full awareness of every poetic and harmonic nuance.



Michael Jayston as Elyot Chase, Maria Aitken as Amanda Pryane.

Private Lives Duchess

Irving Wardle

At the last West End revival of *Private Lives* Noel Coward was there in a box beaming with approval at Robert Stephens and Maggie Smith's determined efforts to rid the text of all echoes of the Coward voice.

Now that the owner of the voice has vanished from the scene so has the preoccupation with switching it off. The plays are simply there to be re-explored; and in this Greenwich transfer by Alan Strachan there is no defiant attempt to reveal warm-blooded characters under the flimsy profiles. It takes its cue from Elyot's line, "You mustn't be serious... that's what they want", and attains a level of high-wire comic poise through excellent casting, and extreme sensitivity to line rhythms, tone of voice, and sense of period.

The test for any production of this piece lies in the second act where the action comes to a full stop and simply exhibits the two principals' private lives.

Maria Aitken and Michael Jayston have the starting disadvantage that they are not cabaret artists. Never mind: in all other respects they pull off the scene with complete control of the sea-saw emotional tensions that keep the partners in motion. Far from appearing static, the act comes over as a marvellously organized series of trial runs towards the Wagnerian brawl at the end.

From tell-tale inflexions—needed surprise, assumed indifference, swoops of affronted dignity—they pinpoint the precise moment from which the next row will inexorably develop; and the physical routines, from the formal dance, hands outstretched to the house on the gag lines, to the kicking and eye-gouging finale all hit the nail bang on the head.

Mr Jayston's Elyot is a trim, anonymous figure whose effects depend partly on the contrast between his reproachably respectable appearance and the mad invention and violence of the lines.

Miss Aitken's Amanda is the complete bourgeois bloom, with huge languishing eyes and bony profile, switching sexual attitudes like so many changes of costume, and not afraid of showing her age to get the better of Sybil in the last act where she goes into a matronly suit and apricot cloche, the better to play the dignified hostess.

The production also elevates the second couple well above the rank of stooges. Ian Collier and Jenny Quayle show them as novices in the marriage game, who are quick to learn it once they get a chance; particularly Miss Quayle who drops her blubbery tantrums and perks up no end when she finds that even she can twist the knife in Amanda.

Coming events on the London stage

Five new plays are due to join the National Theatre repertoire in the next six months. After David Storey's *Early Days* later this month, and the London premiere of Alan Ayckbourn's *Sisterly Feelings* in June, Agha Fugard's *A Lesson from Aloes* will be presented at the Cottesloe in July by a visiting company, the

Market Theatre of Johannesburg. In August the Cottesloe will see the premiere of Nigel Williams' *Line Em* and then in the autumn Howard Brenton's *The Romans in Britain* will receive its premiere in the Olivier Theatre.

Michael Frayn's new play *Make and Break* with Leonard

Rossiter and Prunella Scales in the leading roles, is moving into the West End on April 24. It transfers from the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, to the Haymarket Theatre, replacing the historical play *Reflections*, with Dorothy Tutin and Donald Pleasence, which closes on April 19 after a run of only five weeks.

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PARLIAMENT, April 17, 1980

TUC day of action will do country nothing but harm

House of Commons
The TUC's proposed day of action would do this country nothing but harm and further damage to the trade union movement, the Prime Minister said during questions.

Mr. John Birtcher (Coventry, South-West, C) asked: His Mrs Thatcher studied the article written by the general secretary of the electricians' union (Mr. Frank Nappie) which points out that the coming day of action is tantamount to a political strike which will damage the economy?

Has she noticed the growing number of trade unionists applied at this particular time who see it as an irresponsible act?

Mrs Thatcher—I have had a look at that excellent article. The author said democracy could not function if government policies are to be changed not through the ballot box but through the disruption of industry by political strikes.

It is clear the day of action will do this country nothing but harm and further damage to the trade union movement itself.

Mr. Barry Jones (East Flint, Lab)—How many protesters have been made aware of the danger in view of the bankruptcies and lengthening queues, will the Prime Minister address her?

Does she want to divide Britain the industrial north against the prosperous south?

Mrs Thatcher—In many parts of the country, as is shown by surveys the budget was welcomed and was regarded as fair. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Eric Cormack (Ludlow, C)—Will the Prime Minister ensure that she supports the restoration of the money market? Is it not the case that the money market is going to be a further tax on the taxpayer's money?

Mr. Thatcher—The cash limits for British Leyland have been fixed. It is clear there are large numbers of British Leyland workers who are not to stay at work and who are urging their fellows to do so.

The management of British Leyland has copied everything and have every confidence that they will do so again and that people will return to work. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr. James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition (Cardiff, South East, Lab)—If her Budget has been so

generally welcomed, how does she explain the report yesterday that business confidence is at its lowest ebb since records were first kept? (Labour cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher—Mr. Callaghan frequently assails me with forecasts of doom and gloom or records of forecasts. He always ignores what is more important to people who gave their votes on the Budget—that in this year the standard of living of the British people rose by 6.5 per cent. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Callaghan—Does not the Prime Minister and the Government understand that we cannot tolerate a forecast by the Government that the country is going to decline through the lifetime of this Parliament? When is she going to alter this policy?

Mrs Thatcher—Mr. Callaghan knows the gross domestic product is not wholly determined by manufacturing industry. I agree that we want a good manufacturing base. Manufacturing output will be likely to rise if we do not have many strikes. (Labour interruptions and Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Patrick Cormack (South West Staffordshire, C)—As Mr. Callaghan is concerned about business confidence will the Prime Minister invite him to join in protesting against the day of action and to use such influence as he possesses to call off the particular character?

Mrs Thatcher—I agree that the greatest shot in the arm to business confidence would be if the Opposition would do more to condemn strikes.

Mr. Callaghan—If Mrs Thatcher will consult the TUC at the same level and with the same seriousness as she consults the various Labour Government, with the result that inflation was half the level 12 months ago as it is today, business confidence was higher.

Mr. Thatcher—The last Labour Government had not the courage to take the right financial decisions and had to call the IMF in. It is a fact which Mr. Callaghan tries to hide but cannot ignore that his Government has brought this country to the worst winter of discontent this country has ever seen. (Conservative cheers.)

Shipbuilders in need of fresh orders

British shipbuilders must take advantage of the world improvement in order to level up with the rest of the world, Mr. Adam Butler, Minister of State for Industry said in an order amending his previous statement on the merchant building redundancy payments scheme was approved early today.

Mr. Butler (Buxworth, C) said the improvement in order levels had been welcomed but the market was still difficult and uncertain.

Other countries (he said) are as anxious for the order as we are and competition is as fierce and will continue to be fierce.

British shipbuilders' orders for 1979 were only about the same as for 1978, while Japanese new orders increased by 20 per cent and those for the rest of the EEC, excluding the United Kingdom, by over 70 per cent.

Developing countries are winning an increasing share of the market.

Tanker rates had declined substantially since the end of 1979. Freight rates in the non-tanker market had remained fairly steady since mid-1979 but given the sort of growth rates one could expect for world seaborne trade in coming years it was unlikely that 1980 would see any great improvement in demand in this sector either.

Perhaps (he added) the best we can hope for in 1980 is that order levels will be about the same as for 1979. It will be some time before we see substantial and enduring improvements.

The Government wished to see a viable and flourishing merchant shipbuilding industry. But this could be achieved only if the industry obtained greatly improved levels of efficiency and productivity.

British shipbuilders' current strategy, reached after full consultation with the unions, was to reduce the size of the merchant building redundancy payments scheme was approved early today.

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Olympics body urged to review decision

The situation had changed since the British Olympic Committee took their last preliminary decision about going to Moscow, the Prime Minister said at question time.

Mrs Thatcher said it was changing in that the United States Olympic Committee had decided to advise its athletes not to go to Moscow and an increasing number of other governments were following that lead.

Many of our own people (she added) will wish to reconsider the decision.

She was replying to Mr. Keith Best (Annesley, C) who had asked: Would Mrs Thatcher write a charming letter to Sir Denis Flaherty, not necessarily describing any part of his anatomy, but asking him to pay particular regard more to the wishes of the British electorate as expressed through their democratically elected representatives in the House rather than the wishes of the International Olympic Committee?

Mrs Thatcher said she was willing to do that if Mr. Best thought it would help.

Mr. Terence Higgins (Warrington, C)—If we are considering economic sanctions against Iran, will the Prime Minister consider economic sanctions against Russia since the Olympic Committee not to boycott the Olympic Games is more likely to be imposed by the House rather than the Government is doing everything possible to deter Russian athletes from going to Moscow?

Mrs Thatcher—The economic sanctions against Iran will be considered at the meeting of Foreign Ministers on Monday and Tuesday. I do not think the economic sanctions against Russia would be likely to get through.

Mr. Hugh Fraser (Stafford and South Staffordshire, C)—In view of the fact that so much of American policy is now conducted by television or press leak, would the Prime Minister consider sending the House early next week whether it be true or not that a deadline has been set for May 17, 1980, for the House to decide today? This is a serious matter and the House should be kept informed.

Mrs Thatcher—I know of no such deadline.

Mr. Ian Blair (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab)—The statistics of the International Olympic Committee expressed in the House of Commons yesterday, the Prime Minister, by literally dragging the British Olympic Committee into the International Olympic Committee, is a disgrace.

Mr. Thatcher—The Olympic Games are based on the concept of peace and prosperity. I hardly think the House should be satisfied at the present time.

The British Olympic Committee should reconsider their decision. I believe even those athletes who go to Moscow will be disappointed because athletes from so many countries will be absent.

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Curbing secondary action in disputes

In effect, the law as it stands is a licence to spread industrial action far beyond the limits of the original dispute, putting at risk the jobs and businesses of people who are in no way connected with it, Mr. James Prior, Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said in a speech at the report stage of the Employment Bill.

No responsible government could allow the law which must also apply to the Opposition.

Mr. Prior (Lowestoft, C), who was moving a new clause dealing with secondary action, said it concerned the most damaging areas of conflict and one which generated great bitterness among employers, workers and the general public.

Secondary action, whatever form it took, whether a strike, blacking, picketing or a combination of any of those, meant industrial action taken by employees who were not directly concerned with their own employer.

All too often in recent years secondary action had been used deliberately to spread the disruption of industry to the detriment of the public. It had led to such public concern that the Government had to intervene.

Without doubt, the most damaging form of secondary action was secondary picketing. With that, damage could be done to the business of a customer or supplier or a company with no connection with the employer in dispute. That damage could be done to the business of a customer or supplier or a company with no connection with the employer in dispute.

Employees in firms far removed from the dispute were called upon to stop working and to accept certain losses. As a result, the production schedules of their firms were upset, orders lost and ultimately jobs put at risk.

It was said that all this could be justified in terms of building up pressure on the employer in dispute to stop working and thereby threatening their own jobs.

More and more at the end of the day it was the public that was caught up in the crossfire of this secondary action. This was the opposite of what those who fought for the rights of trade unions 75 or 100 years ago had intended.

There were many of them, knew that when they pursued a dispute it was in their interests to retain their jobs and to protect their suppliers and customers and of the public at large.

All disputes, however bitter and prolonged, should be confined to the employer in dispute. There would be no work to go back to if the confidence of employers, customers and suppliers had been destroyed in the process.

The willingness of society to allow trade unionists to take industrial action far beyond the limits of the original dispute, putting at risk the jobs and businesses of people who are in no way connected with it, Mr. James Prior, Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said in a speech at the report stage of the Employment Bill.

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the immunity provided by Section 13 of the 1974 Act, as amended. Without this they could be put at risk, under the definition of secondary action, of losing immunity if they were to turn back to work.

Another section explained what was meant by the action which would not be allowed if it sought to disrupt the supply of goods and services between an employer and his customer or supplier by the means of disrupting supplies between the latter and other employers.

The effect of the new clause would be to ensure that any action which sought to disrupt the supply of goods and services between an employer and his customer or supplier by the means of disrupting supplies between the latter and other employers would not be allowed if it sought to disrupt the supply of goods and services between an employer and his customer or supplier by the means of disrupting supplies between the latter and other employers.

Second, that its principle purpose was directly to prevent or obstruct the supply of goods or services between an employer in dispute and the supplier or customer of the employer in dispute.

Third, that it was likely to achieve its purpose by the means of disrupting supplies between the latter and other employers.

Secondary action would have to satisfy all three conditions to gain immunity.

Some might argue that this would put trade union officials in an impossible position. But nothing in this clause or the whole Bill touched their own position.

Where his members were in dispute with their own employer, the law on industrial action would be the same as it was before the Bill.

Only if he was considering going beyond primary action and calling on other employees not in dispute with their own employer to join in the dispute, would he be affected by this clause.

The organizers of secondary action would be directly to prevent or obstruct the supply of goods or services between an employer in dispute and the supplier or customer of the employer in dispute.

It was the jobs and businesses of other people who were being put at risk by the general public and other trade unionists with no interest in the dispute who were the ones who were going to suffer.

The clause would provide an effective limitation on the abuses of secondary action. One of the

underlying principles of the Employment Bill was to restore the legal remedy to those people who were hit by some of the most damaging abuses of the present law.

This new clause was fully in keeping with that approach. However, it did not attempt an easy way to stop the simple and easily constructed position of removing immunity for all but primary disputes.

The clause genuinely sought a position which was balanced and reasonable. A simple repeal of the immunity for all but primary disputes would not be right. (Some Conservative protests.)

I have said on a number of occasions from this equally true (he continued) that just as it is unreasonable to leave trade unions with more power than they need in the law, it is equally unreasonable to leave them with less power than they need in the law.

One question they had to ask themselves when they considered how conflict in industry had become so easy to start was whether the present form of the law as it stood for 70 or more years had contributed to that conflict.

The immunities approach had created two strong forces which could be used against each other. On the one hand, the fundamental sympathy to the law and all its works of many in the service of the public had been fed and nurtured by it since their rights to exist and operate had seemed to stem from their holding power in many senses above the law.

They had tended to view the courts as interfering instruments of oppression which they should never be brought to court as impartial institutions of justice. That had been the effect of the law on the public mind.

On the other hand, immunities provoked intolerant responses of people who were not used to the law and who were not used to the law.

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Too much negative union bias

Mr. Eric Varley, chief Opposition spokesman on employment (Chesham, Bucks, C), said the new clause represented a further intrusion into the Government's anti-trade union legislation intended to reduce the bargaining power of workers through their trade unions.

What worries me (he said) is that members and supporters of the Government can sit back and watch their hands of the unparalleled decline that is going to take place in our economy and industry.

When the Conservative Government was in power there was always more days lost from industrial disputes than when a Labour Government was in power. Under the present administration of the Secretary of State for Employment (Mr. Prior), there had been a record number of working days lost—10 million in the 11 months of the Conservative Government.

The belief (he said) that you can pass legislation of this kind and industrial relations are going to improve is a fallacy.

THE MORNING AFTER THE FLIGHT BEFORE.



Anyone who has spent around 20 hours in an aeroplane will know the
It's rather like waking up with a double hangover.

And you leave the plane both looking and feeling like you haven't slept
week. Which is no way to embark on any visit, be it business or pleasure.

Happily though, since April 2, you can fly to the Orient and still feel fit
at the rising sun.

Because that's when we began our new twice weekly 747 service from
in Gatwick to Bangkok and Manila.

Our new 747s are the only aircraft to offer first class passengers comfort-
ds that are officially certified for occupancy during take off and landing.

Which means you don't have to get up in the middle of the night
we refuel at Bahrain or discharge passengers at Bangkok.

Instead, you sleep undisturbed until it's time for early morning
otherwise weary traveller will also be heartened to hear that our
every bit as refreshing as our accommodation.

We serve "La Nouvelle Cuisine" in all classes and it has been judged by
Gastronome, the Swiss gourmet society, to be the finest Airline food in

the world. And finally, when you arrive in Manila, refreshed and raring to go,
our extensive network can whisk you direct to all the great commercial centres
of the East and Australasia.

So now there's a way to the East that you needn't lose sleep over. After
all, the last thing we want to do is make you feel like you need a day to recover.

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Zimbabwe's black majority waits for the new policy on agriculture

Land: Mr Mugabe's toughest task

By 3,774 votes to 5,989 Southern Rhodesia's white settlers in 1923 chose internal self-government in preference to absorption into the Union of South Africa. The country's 862,000 blacks had to wait another 57 years before exercising their choice, as they have today, with the birth of Zimbabwe.

The main preoccupation of early colonial governments and the European settlers was the question of land, and in particular the division of land ownership between 33,000 whites and 862,000 blacks. A third of the land was then already owned by whites and not much more than a fifth reserved for Africans, with the remainder still undefined.

Many changes have occurred in 57 years, but for Mr Mugabe now the question of land is still unfinished business. Sanctions, wars, elections may come and go but the one fundamental unchanging issue of Rhodesia then and Zimbabwe now is land.

It could hardly have been otherwise. Land to any African—regardless of whether or not it is cultivated—has an historical, cultural, almost spiritual quality which seems incomprehensible to European minds long distanced from their peasant predecessors. To be deprived of land was bad enough; what was worse was that the original purpose of the division of land—segregation of the races—was vitiated, immediately by the inequitable distribution of acreage so that a class of landless Africans was created who became permanently urbanised in their search for work.

They thus destroyed at birth the idea of segregation—just as the urban blacks have done in South Africa, doubtless with the same ultimate effect, where only timing is now at issue.

Today Zimbabwe stands at a hinge of history and geography; of history because it is not only the last discharge of British imperial responsibilities but because it has provided a unique spectacle where white rule have finally agreed to build and operate the scaffold of their own political execution; of geography because in the



course of the white man's sweep into Africa the northward and southward thrust of settlements met on the high land of Rhodesia.

There they created a combination of settler and indigenous white-African which distinguished Rhodesia from the colonial societies of the north and made it a dress rehearsal for the ultimate confrontation in the south.

So the question now for Mr Mugabe is not how he can preserve the pattern of land distribution which he has inherited because nobody would want or expect him to do that. It is how he can redistribute it at a pace which satisfies both the aspirations of his followers, and the general land hunger whose alleviation blacks would inevitably associate with their freedom from white domination, while preserving the country's wealth and power in a way which not only underwrites his regime but ensures Zimbabwe's importance in Africa, when that power derives almost entirely from white-owned land and businesses.

"Give me another ton of coal and I will give you a foreign policy," said Ernest Bevin to the post-war miners. Well might Mr Mugabe

paraphrase that for the black and white producers of maize, wheat, beef. It is on such commodities that the stability, prosperity and external power of his country will depend. True, sanctions have paradoxically stimulated Rhodesia into creating a financial and industrial economy which, for its range and skills, probably knows no equal in black Africa. But the underlying power, in the economy, and thus in employment, foreign exchange and social stability, comes from agriculture.

Consider the statistics. Agriculture contributes nearly 29 per cent of Zimbabwe's annual gnp; the country is self-sufficient in food; five million out of seven million people are dependent in some way on agriculture for their livelihood; 88 per cent of the wage earners are employed in agriculture; nearly a fifth of the black population live on, and are sustained by, white farms; agricultural exports earn 50 per cent of the country's foreign currency; and extension planning are among the most advanced in Africa.

Here is an asset where the productive potential—now the

war is over—would be spoilt only at Zimbabwe's peril. One has only to witness the near starvation and bankruptcy of Zambia, the collapse of Mozambique's economy and the painful failure of Tanzania's ideological agriculture to be reminded of the consequences when African governments tamper with agriculture for political reasons without bothering to preserve production.

So Mr Mugabe has to cherish his production while changing the pattern of ownership. In 1976 white-owned farms produced four-fifths of Rhodesia's agricultural output. Though most agriculture in the tribal areas and African purchase land was on a peasant basis, incomes managed to grow by 5 per cent per year between 1963-75—higher than the national average—largely accounted for by some peasant farmers diversifying from traditional grains into cash crops like cotton.

This was an encouraging sign that peasant farmers could respond to commercial stimuli just as readily as the whites, even when most rural areas were becoming devastated by the ravages of war, with crops burnt, stock killed and cattle depredated.

Studies conducted by the Whitson Foundation in Rhodesia showed that perhaps 25 per cent of the peasant population—about 170,000 families or 900,000 people—would pursue a more commercially oriented standard of farming if they were given a chance to break out of the subsistence patterns of most of the rural population. Indeed, the crop yields in the African purchase areas of single smallholders were already more than double those for the tribal areas, where farming is both communally based and seldom much more productive than the requirements of subsistence.

However, a more depressing figure indicated the unfortunate over-concentration on the successful white-owned area of farming, since, relative to their product, it was shown that white farmers were able

to obtain five times as much credit as their black colleagues.

So Mr Mugabe has to stimulate these African farmers who want to farm commercially—and find land for them—without diminishing production from that relatively small section of the white farmers whose productivity sustains the country. The Whitson Foundation discovered that half of all production from the white sector came from about 10-12 per cent of the farms with 90 per cent of production accounted for by 57 per cent of the farms.

Here is a statistic of quite incalculable political importance. It means that if Mr Mugabe can manage the politics of transfer without disturbing the best white farmers, he can move gradually towards the replacement of anything up to half their number—without the less efficient ones—without greatly affecting Zimbabwe production.

Of course there are provisos. The first is that the underlying philosophy of any land disposal must be not to satisfy a brute political desire for land but to make sure that the land is well farmed. It is a strategic resource which should be allocated only to good farmers. Initially there is much land now vacant or unused which could be developed in this way without using land already productively farmed; but ultimately many more one-time white farms will have to be taken over by blacks.

The second is that such development must be accompanied by the necessary ancillary services so that the related black farmers have the technical assistance and services to help break them out of a peasant environment into the cash economy. This, thirdly, means major development assistance, perhaps from the World Bank or the EEC.

The fourth proviso is that Mr Mugabe's victory cannot result in a land bonanza for all. If all the land of white and black Rhodesia was parcelled out to the entire population on a once-and-for-all share-out, the average plot size would be

hardly any bigger than it is now in the tribal lands and, with population increase, would soon become smaller. So the planned redistribution of land will anyway have to involve intensively settled irrigation schemes where the cash return, rather than the acreage, provides the incentive.

The fifth is that unduly radical solutions to the Zimbabwe land issue can be shown, both in the short and long term, to result in less production for the entire agricultural population. A mixture of land in which up to half of white-owned land is ultimately transferred to black commercial farmers, with a substantial element of intensively irrigated settlements, while both the tribal areas and the highly productive white-owned areas undergo much more gradual change, provides the best hope for Zimbabwe's future.

A sixth is that no policy should presume that each and every citizen of Zimbabwe is an aspirant farmer. On the contrary, as the crowded townships show, moreover the mixed farming model offers more earning opportunities in wage employment for those who do not want to be farmers.

Much therefore rests on Mr Mugabe's shoulders, and on those of his white Minister of Agriculture, Mr Denis Norman, who as a former head of the Rhodesian National Farmers Union already knows these difficulties only too well. They have to satisfy Zimbabwe's land hunger in a way which ensures that Zimbabwe and her neighbours do not go really hungry as a result.

Of course Mr Mugabe has to grapple with many other political difficulties in his task of reconstruction and revolution of armed forces, refugees, law and order, to name only a few. But underneath him, his policies, and his people, is the land of Zimbabwe, for so long the source of despair, and conflict; now, perhaps, a seed-bed of hope.

Charles Douglas-Home

Geoffrey Smith

That special relationship under pressure

Anyone listening to the exchanges in the House of Commons when the Prime Minister made his statement on the Iranian crisis on Monday could have been forgiven for supposing that parliamentary opinion was largely united on this question. It was simply a matter, so it seemed, of finding the most appropriate means of taking action, alongside the United States.

But the appearance of accord was to some extent misleading. Only a few on the far right and the far left do not want Britain to do anything to demonstrate solidarity with the Americans. But elsewhere on the political spectrum there are various opinions on the future of Anglo-American relations.

There are the instinctive Atlanticists, those who give absolute priority to the American connexion and who are concerned above all at this time that Britain should appear as a reliable ally. There are those of these to be found nowadays on the Labour than the Conservative benches. Mr. Callaghan is to be numbered among them. He told the Shadow Cabinet on Monday that this was an occasion for a bipartisan approach. Not all of his colleagues would go as far as he would in that direction.

Some of them would wish to examine somewhat stringently whatever might be proposed. There is more unease on the Labour benches than has yet become apparent. But if the Government comes back to Parliament after the May 15th meeting of European Community foreign ministers with legislation on trade sanctions, for example, it is unlikely that the Labour Party as a whole would resist it—though the Shadow Cabinet has not yet discussed the possibility.

Much the same can be said of the Liberals, though they cannot accurately be described as instinctive Atlanticists. They are, however, much perturbed at the threat to international order presented by the seizure of the hostages. When they were first taken, Mr. Russell Johnston, the Liberal spokesman on foreign affairs, suggested that British diplomatic representation should be withdrawn from Tehran forthwith.

It is among Conservatives that the variations of opinion are particularly interesting. To say that there are many instinctive Atlanticists among them is not to imply that they are less attached to the western alliance. That would be an absurd suggestion. It is rather that on the whole they are not so inclined to see the alliance quite so much in predominantly Anglo-American terms, and in this instance many of them are worried by other considerations as well.

There are indeed a few right-wingers who are not consumed by pro-American sentiment and have no reason to support, or ally in, the Iranian crisis. They may be mistaken policy over Iran. The world is occasionally mentioned. Did the Americans, it is asked, feel an obligation of friendship to help us then?

There are two conclusions to be drawn from the future American relation one should say one conclusion seen from different angles may be regarded as the strength of the alliance when people do not see a majority of Commons to reassure it even though the ally be no more, action on its part, a bad test of when people do something judgment for it.

But it is also dangerous failure caution within the action to support. An American such misgivings may be cast in the House of Commons only to offend them, much.

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Edward Mortimer, in his concluding article on Iran, examines fears of a clergy power monopoly

Why the joy has departed from the revolution

Most intellectuals agree that at present there is still relative freedom in Iran but argue that this results from the weakness of the regime rather than its goodwill

Few classes in Iran today are so demoralised as the secular liberal and socialist intelligentsia. One of the first people I telephoned when I arrived in Tehran was Simine Dushabavar, the widow of the writer and politician Ali Akbar, one of those who had prepared the ground for the alliance between intellectuals and the religious leadership before the revolution.

I had visited her in February last year, a day or two before the overthrow of the Bakhtiari government, and she had been positively lyrical in her admiration for Ayatollah Khomeini, about whose fundamentally liberal attitude she was unwilling to entertain any doubts. This year she apologised for not being well enough to see me. "This joyless revolution has made me heartbroken," she explained. "The intellectuals are the nerves of a country, and these nerves are very sick now."

I was given a more robust but hardly less pessimistic account of the situation by Ali Akbar Haj Seyid Javadi, sometimes known as the Persian Sakharov, who began the campaign of public protests against the Shah's rule in 1975 and remained a courageously outspoken critic of repression before, during and after the revolution.

"The trouble is," he said, "that during the last 60 years we have had no democratic experience. We thought we could work out collective policy with a collective leadership, bringing together all the political groups who had been active before the revolution—a kind of government of national unity. But we couldn't do it because the clergy wanted to monopolise power and was fiercely opposed to the academics, the intellectuals and the technocratic cadres of the country."

His prognosis was gloomy. "The clergy's insistence on keeping all the levers of power in their own hands will oblige them to impose a kind of despotism, to move farther and farther away from the people, to isolate themselves and turn into a dominating class."

Although they were now using anti-imperialist slogans to discredit their opponents, Mr Haj Seyid Javadi felt they would eventually have to move closer to "imperialism" (ie the West) in order to salvage their policies. He believed Iran would be the victim of a new entente between the Soviet Union and the United States, whereas a more intelligent policy would have enabled Iran to deal with the United States from strength, as the Sandinistas had done in Nicaragua.

Most intellectuals agree that at present there is still relative freedom in Iran, but they argue that this results from the weakness of the regime rather than its goodwill. Last summer and autumn, they say, it attempted to suppress the left completely but found it was not strong enough to do so. The occupation of the American embassy in November had coincided with a period of relative relaxation on the internal front, but lately things had been getting worse again. Some political leaders of the Turcoman minority had been murdered in cold blood by revolutionary guards, the parliamentary elec-

tion had been held in an atmosphere of intimidation and fraud, and there had been new attacks on the Kurds, and the confrontation with the United States was itself being used as a pretext to denounce internal opponents as "agents of imperialism."

Iman Khomeini's message to the nation on the occasion of the Iranian new year, in March, has generally been taken by the left as a declaration of war. The universities, especially, were told what to expect: "A fundamental revolution must come about. Professors who are associated with the news or west should be purged. The university must impart Islamic sciences. The wrong teachings imparted in the past must be checked, for they were the cause of all our misfortunes..."

All this is seen as a scarcely veiled attack on the progressive Muslim "People's Movement", who in recent months have been bitterly attacked by the increasingly powerful Islamic Republic Party (IRP), and who have complained of harassment and

most critical time, were cut off from the communists or the Marxist-Leninist "People's Fedayin" (who also have a considerable following, mainly among the educated middle class).

The great protector of the Mojahedin was Ayatollah Taleqani, the Tehran religious leader, who was very skilled at softening the more abrasive pronouncements of Imam Khomeini, and whose death last September is felt by all liberal or progressive Iranians as a great loss. The Mojahedin passionately deny that they are influenced by Marxism, insisting that they are absolutely orthodox Muslims and devoted followers of the Imam. This, of course, makes them vulnerable if the Imam should be persuaded to denounce them by name.

The Fedayin do not have such a broad popular base, but are perhaps better equipped ideologically to resist clerical oppression. They cling to the

belief that the clergy will not be able to mobilize "the masses" for an all-out offensive against the two popular guerrilla organizations. But others are not so sure.

Meanwhile those in power, while critical of the left-wing parties, deny harbouring any aggressive or repressive intentions towards them. Mr Javad Mansuri, one of the leaders of the IRP, assured me that it did not favour a one-party system and would not seek to dominate the Government even if it had an overall majority in the new parliament.

Similarly Mr Alireza Nobari, governor of the central bank and a close friend of President Bani-Sadr, told me that the system was going to get more liberal, and that "many people in positions of responsibility don't even pray". And another friend of the President's, the head of the national university, claimed that the only pressure for change came from "students who feel what they are being taught is completely empty."

Such remarks may be quite sincere, but the secular intellectuals are not reassured. Some of them do credit the President and his men with a degree of genuine liberalism, but doubt if he has the strength to impose his line on the clergy, and they all view the IRP with intense suspicion.

The tragedy is, of course, that the more the atmosphere of international crisis deepens, the greater the scope for paranoia, denunciations and purges. The way that the conflict with Iraq has been exaggerated, with wild accusations that the Iraqi Ba'ath party is controlled by the Americans, the Israelis, the Egyptians, or even the British is hardly an encouraging sign.

"Let's not confuse ostentation," I said, "with style"

There was little danger of that, I reflected, as I looked again at the pocket watch she handed back to me.

The symmetry of the sixty diamonds encircling the intricately hand-carved movement, punctuating each minute with a sparkle of pure light. The miniature wheels within the transparent case, moving the hands in perfect motion. A delicate evolution of function into decoration.

"But what a shame," she remarked, as I slipped it into my pocket, "to have to keep something so beautiful hidden away."

Perhaps she has yet to discover that pleasure in ownership can come as much from private contemplation as public display.

Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 71 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS.



Broomball season ends with a bang

While Britain has been basking in springtime sun here in Moscow we are still clearing up the ice, snow and general mess of a long and lingering winter. It is the worst time of the year, when everything looks grey and dirty and snowflakes keep disappointing the hopes that Spring has begun. Even the usual round of diplomatic parties has been rather disrupted as people sneak off to Helsinki for a few days break before settling down to the gruelling pre-Olympic build-up.

But there was one party that no one could miss if he wanted to count for anything on the Moscow social scene: the Broomball Ball. To recap briefly for those who did not see my earlier exhaustive account of the mysteries of broomball, the game is a daff and peculiarly Moscow version of ice-hockey, though played six a side in rubber-soled shoes with a children's plastic ball and little Russian twig brooms bound with sticky tape into the form of a brook-scaped bat.

It is virtually the only organized recreation for foreigners in winter and has blossomed into a fully-fledged league championship with 12 men's and eight women's teams.

The ball, held in the palatial splendour of Spassko House, the American ambassador's official residence, was a black tie affair with a buffet dinner and disco dancing. It seemed a peculiar mélange of an Oxbridge bumps supper, a May ball, a diplomatic cocktail party and a student rave-up.

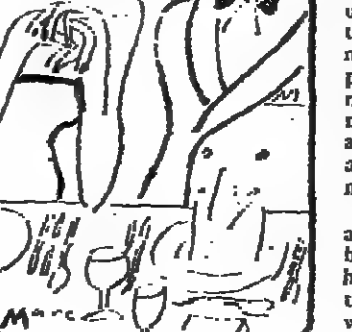
At any rate it was rather enjoyable but very confusing as you could hardly recognize your erstwhile opponents when not wearing plastic helmets, shin-pads and gaudy sweaters with something in Russian printed on them. I smiled weakly at several people I was sure had given me a hefty thump but was a bit lost in the talk of particularly fine tackles and spectacular injuries.

Spassko House itself is ideally suited to a ball. It's a huge ornate edifice in the very centre of old Moscow, built last century by, it is said, a 1933r merchant. (Virtually all fine embassies seem to have belonged at one time to sugar merchants or their mistresses, ours included).

When he arrived last year Mr Thomas Watson, the new American ambassador, had generous visions of party after party at which Soviet guests would mingle under the chandeliers and admire his valuable collection of American art. But that, and Mr Watson, a special former president of 1933 who came to Russia as a pilot bringing aid and succour during the war, found

himself having to play the tough man, and all idea of lavish entertaining of Russians was out of the question.

But he has made up for it by having round most of the foreigners in Moscow, and although he was not the allowed his residence to be the venue of the ball—much to the amazement of the Russian staff who probably wondered at the exact diplomatic status of the guests contorting themselves to



the very well amplified music of the latest LPs from England and America.

The broomball season itself ended last month. Of course the Finns won—they always do. In 12 games they scored a record 202 goals, and in the game against the Pits alone they scored 27 goals. The Pits, a team for which I played rather half-heartedly I have to confess, was the self-proclaimed knock-about team which lost every match it played with rare good humour and ended up on an honourable bottom of the league—the name originally predicted. We were hampered by having so many journalists in our team, which meant that for much of January half the team was playing a rather different away engagement in Kabul.

But there were Saturday afternoons when it was a fair bet that if something vital had happened the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, Newsweek, The Times, Reuters (in part) and UPI (in part) would have been curiously slow off the mark. I listen to add that the news agencies could never field all their men for the team—someone had to watch the news just in case. But also the total goals scored against us practically blew the calculation of the league around 100 in all.

The Finns got a handsome cup for their efforts, presented by British Airways, the official sponsor. I asked one of their team if it was true that they had been practising all summer.

"Not at all," he remarked a little offended by this suggestion of excessive zeal. "Only since September." But even they could not boast the record of the Australian women who won the women's league championship in the second year running without losing a match. Since their league started they have never been defeated.

Of course there were more rewards and trophies at the ball. The "fairest and best" player (the first adjective is most important) among the men was Canadian. The best forward—a Scandinavian. And to enormous applause the best goalkeeper—our very own John Bodson, the heavy-weight American commercial attaché who was the Pits' co-captain and spent practically every Saturday on his knees fending off shot after shot. At one point during the match with the Pits he pulled down the goal net and put up a novel Russian, very familiar to all, "closed for repairs".

Luckily our match with the American marines was not too traumatic. The week before there had been a bit of a fracas when a marine got a little cross with an Italian player from the (Common) Market Devils team, picked him up and dropped him on his head and cracked his skull. (He's OK now.) That was thought definitely sporting, and the marines got a severe lecturing from the league captains.

"What can captain asked to take them out on every moral their energy, enough—they're younger and fitter businessmen."

An Australian league coordinator said there had been major injuries. Unfortunately international club in Brussels ne But there was excitement at in The Times D. N. Hartman only Her Majesty at Ulan Bator that a rudiment Moscow game into the wild Mongolia.

There's great challenge met But this present ties. We can't as we would our sophisticated pads, brooms, leathers, etc. problems of the M would be caving another halfhearted. It came here matic repr western cot in a 2nd Europe. So be found.



W AND FREE ZIMBABWE

years Britain has been embroiled in a rebellion against nominal British rule, in reality a black-ruled state, ended at midnight, an African Government responsible for the destinies of the black people from the fabled British once-vaunted tradition can be reconstructed at hundreds of millions. A golden hand-drawn line.

seems to have been transmitted into the celebrations of a white minority to try to live and a black political differences are submerged in the celebration of entering a new era, that was forfeited ago, if that spirit has not been lost. The contrast even Algeria, is there the nationality complications that accompanied on of the white in Kenya and East British people have been done by skill the Lancaster was convened last summer, seen important but ton deserves the t for his skill, judgment.

DAVID REMAINS THE BEST HOPE

left Washington is with President, renewed commitment to the negotiations. While have described the area has been, disappeared of procedure. It has at every effort to conclude the talks target date in the compact, although by Mr Carter greater confidence expressed by the is the best that is expected, given on both leaders, bound by the decision, which gave m for manoeuvre of major issues of extent of auto-Jewish settlement territory. For his Carter's preoccupation urgent foreign than the Arab, and with his sign, inhibited any of pressure, assumed that Mr d to his guest the ew on Israel's my proposals. As lite House on Wednesday reporters to do his utmost to autonomy in Judea (his usual design West Bank). The

plans of Save Mr Heseltine's de-Billinggate market eu suggestions that n of the building will dize the move of the market to modern in Dockland, but market might even t of business with ople losing their jobs

are unfounded and a distortion of the cision to move was me ago and only a ll part of the £7.2m financed by the pro-tem of the existing

are there is anyway or a substantial new on the large lorry tely to the west of n addition the City Planning Department that it will require a proportion of retail development on the old well be provided Jones's market hall, calculations of build-1 rentals have value the City Corporation uch the same whether red for a wholly new r the market build-1 in a mixed develop-

For the Zimbabwe govern-ment led by Mr Mugabe the story is beginning. Their concern is to maintain the impact of good-will and reconciliation which the conduct of the cease-fire, the elections and their outcome have, against all expectation, achieved. As Lord Soames noted, the first hurdle is to meet the high expectations of the black people from finite resources depleted by war. The infrastructure has to be rebuilt, from roads to cattle-dips and from industrial and mining plant to village shops; the import content alone of such reconstruction will exceed £1 million. The scale of the task in agriculture is shown in a special article opposite. Britain, if it wishes to maintain the favourable momentum of the past weeks, must urge its western partners to weigh in with aid—after all some of their interests did well out of circumventing sanctions.

A successful Zimbabwe could transform the aspect of central Africa. It could challenge the South African system with the best and most effective competition there is—the demonstration of a superior system. This means making a reality of the old formula offered only to be hypocritically distorted by Sir Godfrey Huggins—a partnership of the races.

Great changes must occur even if that partnership can develop. The possibility that Zimbabwe will step by step take the road of its neighbour Zambia, into a one-party state where elections are largely the form for continuance of a one-man leadership, cannot be ruled out. Zimbabwe will be fortunate if Mr Mugabe shows the humane and statesmanlike qualities of President Kaunda; but he was forced down an authoritarian road by the impact on Zambia's economic and social structure of Rhodesia's rebellion. History offers Mr Mugabe a les-

words "full autonomy" appear in the Camp David agreements, to whose faithful implementation Mr Begin has repeatedly committed himself. By no stretch of language or imagination could Israel's present limited proposals be described as "full autonomy". It is therefore to be hoped that during the continuing negotiations the Israeli Cabinet will be able to modify them to bring them closer to the letter and spirit of Camp David.

In his parting words in the United States, Mr Begin stoutly defended his settlement policy as essential to Israel's security and defence against terror. This is a welcome redefinition. It implies that Mr Begin will forgo settlements of the nature described by his own High Court as "ideological" rather than defensive, as well as provocative gestures such as that planned for Hebron which, far from constituting a security safeguard, actually adds to Israel's security problems.

It is probably expecting too much for Mr Begin to make these disavowals public. He is constantly aware of the delicate balance within his divided government. So far he has placated his hardliners by his rhetoric and given the moderates hope of greater flexibility by some of his actions. Despite regular calls for an early general election, now supported by his own Minister of Defence, Israeli governments are not dissimilar from many others in that they hang on as

London. Postwar development has lined much of it with a series of office blocks and multi-storey car parks, which are wholly unworthy of their magnificent position. The retention of Billingsgate market and the opening up of the wharf in front of it would provide Londoners with the best view of the river they have had in years.

The demolition of the former market buildings in Covent Garden did not prevent the market from moving successfully to new premises at Vauxhall. The same can happen at Billingsgate.

Yours faithfully,

MARCUS BINNEY, Chairman, Save Britain's Heritage, 3 Park Square West, NW1, April 16.

Deadlock in Cyprus From Mr Tim Eggar, MP for Enfield, North (Conservative). Sir, Your newspaper is to be commended for its article "The Cyprus Deadlock" (March 31). It contains many of the arguments that Friends of Cyprus has been seeking to present to the Foreign Secretary over the past few months. We are convinced that, had the British Government headed these arguments, the Secretary General of the United Nations would have been able to report to the March that there had been progress in the intercommunal talks.

The fact is that Nato and the West has succeeded in alienating public opinion in Greece, in all sectors of society. It is felt that the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 was at least partially attributable to Western foreign policy, and that subsequently the West has made no efforts to persuade its illegal occupation of the island. This alienation must be increased when it is clear that the West does have considerable influence with Turkey: it is after all,

son: not to get into the position vis-a-vis the strife-torn South Africa of some years ahead in which Dr Kaunda found himself vis-a-vis Ian Smith's Rhodesia. South Africa, the flywheel of central Africa, could have that dire role.

For South Africa this is a fearful day. The republic is now the only country in Africa where the black man is subordinate. It is as isolated with its "peculiar institution" as was the Confederacy in 1860. It is not in the nature of human affairs that the black majority in South Africa can be kept in that inferior status alone in the human family. South Africa's blacks have a settled determination somehow to force change. How, is veiled from us. But that change will come. The probability is that it will come by violence, as in Ian Smith's Rhodesia. And a crisis in the south may be, at some stage, a great threat to the sort of Zimbabwe to which Mr Mugabe is committed. All the more reason for giving him as much of the aid he needs as our means allow.

An era has also ended for the Commonwealth. For fifteen years Britain's role vis-a-vis Rhodesia has been the dominant item on Commonwealth conference agendas; and even before UDI the process of decolonisation was the stuff of Commonwealth dialogue. Though often fierce it gave the association real meaning. The non-white Commonwealth hasn't got imperial and racist Britain to kick around any more. What high issues will it now discuss—other than British interests in South Africa commerce? Can it work as vigorously on other matters of moment? Can one imagine its premiers and presidents as eager to get together to discuss and make something of the Brandt Report as they were to influence British policy over Rhodesia?

long as they can when they think they will be defeated at the polls. Mr Begin will try to stay, hoping time will be on his side. But it is not on his side. If he hopes that by dragging his feet on autonomy he can avoid intolerable pressures from the United States because of the election campaign this is short term thinking. The pressure will increase if Mr Carter is reelected. Meanwhile at home public disaffection with his government is likely to grow if progress towards peace seems to be retarded because of his obduracy. Moreover, a failure in the autonomy talks would undoubtedly revive the much-heralded Middle East initiative of the European Community. Under the avowedly pro-Arab leadership of France, a European framework for peace would be a far worse option for Israel than Camp David.

For the moment the readiness of all the parties to Camp David to persist in the negotiations is a positive factor which should not be underrated. While this situation prevails, the Community would be irresponsible to launch its own plan. It would only raise more hackles and incite greater resistance, while encouraging more extreme demands on the Arab side. Camp David, with all its vagueness and deficiencies, still remains the best hope for a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Its signatories should be given time and every encouragement to continue talking.

a multi-million pound creditor. But the West has not made even the limited suggestion that aid to Turkey over a certain level should be made conditional upon the Turkish Government allowing progress in the intercommunal talks in Cyprus. There is no reason to suppose that the Turkish Government could be so accommodating as far as Cyprus is concerned, perhaps in relation to the current OECD talks, as it has been in the fundamental political decision to devote the lira and permit foreign investment, at the request of the IMF.

This insensitivity on the part of the West to the importance of Cyprus in Greek public opinion is most regrettable. In the long run it is this opinion which is likely to determine whether Greeks remain attached to Western institutions or whether they seek to link themselves with the non-aligned countries of the world. It is not enough, therefore, for Nato to concentrate solely on hi-lateral Greco-Turkish problems. Indeed, even if there were a Nato influenced settlement in Greece, this would do little to win Greek support for the West: it would be regarded as no more than that to which Greece was entitled. If the West were to assist in a proper settlement in Cyprus, however, our stock would rise considerably, not least because it would be felt that we had purged ourselves of some of the guilt for the Cyprus tragedy. Furthermore, the real chance that Greece may leave Nato completely in the future would have been much reduced. Equally as important, something would have been done to relieve the sheer human misery of a divided island. Once again, we appeal to our Government and its allies not to underestimate their ability to assist the cause in this part of the world.

Yours faithfully,

BRIAN WADE, Friends of Cyprus, PO Box 158, London, W2, April 9.

Ulster and the Union

From Professor J. C. Beckett. Sir, Mr George C. Atfield's letter on Ulster and the Union in your issue of today (April 15) indicates clearly the one sensible approach to the present situation in Ireland. He is perfectly right in saying that the only way in which Ireland can move towards peaceful unity (and no other kind of unity is either practicable or desirable) is through a radical change in the attitude of the Government of the Republic.

It is too late to hope that Dublin politicians will at last set themselves to conciliate the Northern Protestants and try to reach agreement with them, instead of, as hitherto, demanding that the British Government should use its influence to force them, willy-nilly, into joining the Republic?

Yours faithfully,

J. C. BECKETT, 10 Wellington Park Terrace, Belfast 9, April 15.

Birth of Zimbabwe

From Mr Malcolm MacDonald, OVI. Sir, On the historic occasion of the birth of independent Zimbabwe I would like, in my capacity as President of the Royal Commonwealth Society, to pay tribute not only to the brave and determined leadership that has played but also to the role of the Commonwealth in the achievement of that supremely important and happy event.

Mrs Thatcher, Lord Carrington, Lord Soames and their British colleagues and helpers deserve extremely high praise for their courage, determination and wisdom in carrying through a course of action about which many people in this country felt grave doubts. Yet, notable as the British achievement was, we must recognise that without the influence and help of other governments in the Commonwealth the final result would not have been attained. At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Lusaka and through the whole succession of subsequent meetings, the United Kingdom, the general election in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, the often quiet, behind-the-scenes contributions of a number of key Commonwealth leaders were crucial, as was the work of the Commonwealth Secretary-General and his staff. Also vital was the role of the team of Commonwealth observers in establishing beyond doubt in the eyes of other nations, all round the world, the freedom and fairness of the elections.

The Commonwealth, with its broad composition of 42 countries, has many more successes to its credit than are generally known and recognised. It is to be hoped that the emergence of the independent, friendly multi-racial state of Zimbabwe will make the realisable value of this brotherly association of nations representing peoples of many different races much more widely appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

MALCOLM MACDONALD, Royal Commonwealth Society, Northumberland Avenue, WC2, April 16.

Effect of nuclear accidents

From Dr Brian Wade. Sir, On April 2 you published a story that there had been a substantial rise in infant deaths around Three Mile Island nuclear power station since the accident there, which must have caused concern among your readers. In view of the very small radiation doses to the population arising from the accident, any such effect would not be expected.

It is not therefore surprising that more detailed information now available in this country from Dr H. A. Mueller, Secretary of Health for Pennsylvania and Dr G. Tokuda, Director of Epidemiology at the State Health Department, shows that the story is erroneous, being based on statistical fluctuations in small numbers of deaths.

Dr Mueller has said that a preliminary report on the foetal and infant deaths within ten miles of Three Mile Island "shows no statistically significant difference in the mortality rate than for the state as a whole". Figures for the number of infant deaths in this area show 15.7 per 1000 births in the six months after the accident compared with 14.4, 7.2 and 17.2 in the three preceding six month periods. Comparison with the State average figure of about 13.5 is complicated because the infant death rate in the town of Harrisburg is higher than average (about 20) due to its social class mix, and the whole of the town is included in the 10 mile data (although only a small part of the town is actually within 10 miles of the reactor). Similar data for stillbirths and abortion rate in the six month period after the accident, compared with 19.9, 20.6 and 23.7 in the three preceding periods.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

American dilemma over Iran sanctions

From Lord Dacre of Glanton. Sir, Herr Schmidt, echoed by Mr Callaghan, has suggested that now, as in 1914, the nations are in danger of stumbling into a universally unwanted war. Whether they have accurately described the position in 1914 may be questioned, but I would like to draw a more recent and, I think, a less questionable parallel.

When Mussolini invaded Abyssinia, opinion in the West was rightly shocked and the League of Nations voted to apply sanctions to Italy. Some people then believed that this was a mistake: that the real danger to peace came from Nazi Germany, and that it was politically imprudent to gratify our moral indignation by step which might drive Mussolini into the arms of Hitler.

In fact, sanctions did not prevent the conquest of Abyssinia; they united Italy behind Mussolini, and Mussolini supported Hitler in the war against us.

Similarly, I believe that sanctions will not rescue the American hostages: they will unite Iran behind the Ayatollah, and drive it into the arms of the real disturber of the peace, the USSR.

I will change my view if anyone will produce a case in which a policy of sanctions has achieved the results which its advocates have promised.

Yours faithfully,

DACRE OF GLANTON, 8 St Aldate's, Oxford.

One scholar to another

From the Master of Balliol College, Oxford. Sir, I am grateful to you for your sympathetic leader (April 15) about my exclusion from Czechoslovakia after giving a seminar in Prague to Dr Tomlin's group in Prague. There is just one small but important point which I would like to correct.

You say that my giving a seminar "does not much stretch the definition of tourism". With respect, the holding of an unpaid seminar, private or public, is well within the acceptable limits of tourist activities in any other country I have visited. Travelling academics know that if they are to be employed as visiting professors or give a series of paid lectures they need special visas or permits from most countries. But informal unpaid discussions call either for no visa or for a simple tourist visa.

When we applied for visas, my wife and I stated the purpose of our visit as "holiday". As interrupted by the police our visit was anything but a holiday, but had we been left unmolested we should have spent Sunday and Monday seeing the many beauties of Prague which we have long wanted to visit. Our trip would have followed the normal pattern of our holidays: in the last ten years I have hardly ever taken a holiday which did not involve giving or listening to philosophical lectures and seminars. Philosophers commonly do not regard philosophy as a chore to be pursued only during official working hours.

No doubt musicians when going on holidays often take their instruments with them. Do the Czechoslovakian authorities seriously claim that if they intend to play their fiddles or their flutes in private company they should be obliged to state this in advance under pain of expulsion from the country?

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY KENNY, Balliol College, Oxford, April 16.

Islamic codes of conduct

From Dr C. R. Bagley. Sir, The publication of the Universal Islamic Declaration (April 14) is welcome, for it is a clear statement of the principles of Islam which we may understand and evaluate the actions of Islamic nations and groups.

Two examples illustrate the gap between principle and practice (which, sadly, exists in all world religions). "The ideal of man's brotherhood seeks and finds its realization in Islam", one reads in the Declaration. Shortly after reading this I heard on the BBC that thousands of Shi'ite Muslims had been forced to flee from Iraq by their Sunni brethren.

The Declaration tells us that: "Islam... confers on all human beings... freedom of worship, expression, movement and thought". But a fortnight ago one learnt from *The Times* that a large ethnic minority in the Islamic country of Bangladesh have been persecuted, murdered and imprisoned because they are ethnically different and because they belong to Christian, Buddhist and Hindu religious groups.

Yours truly,

C. R. BAGLEY, 68 Sandbourne Avenue, SW19, April 14.

political views, would make first-class representatives and conversely elect or re-elect some whose attendance at NEC meetings had been to say the least somewhat scant. One of Mr Levin's candidates failed to submit an election address, so anyone considering his name for a possible role has no idea of what he stands for.

The article also refers to a smear campaign against Kate Losinski and her fellow moderates. Neither I nor any of the CPSA members I represent are aware of any such activity and some clarification by Mr Levin on this point would be most welcome.

With reference to political motions at the NEC, while I personally am very concerned about the fate of Professor Selikarov and his wife along with others persecuted for their belief, the outcome of their case or any other has no effect on the members I represent, who have to work in converted flats or put up with cockroaches dropping onto them from the ceilings of outmoded accommodation.

I shall ignore the political views of the candidates and vote for those who will do the most for the members of the CPSA and I urge others to do the same.

Yours faithfully,

NICHOLAS B. BARNES, Civil and Public Services Association Representative, HM Prison, Job Avenue, Brixton, SW2, April 16.

The promotion of racial harmony

From the Chairman, National Association for Asian Youth. Sir, In your editorial "The Wrong Structure" (April 11) you call for a fundamental re-examination of the structure and role of the Commission for Racial Equality. While you do make some very pertinent points, you fail to get to the heart of the matter.

The Commission exists for a limited and specific purpose, namely: to combat racial discrimination and promote racial harmony. In order to achieve this objective it needs to undertake four sets of activities. First, it must monitor the existing laws against racial discrimination by mounting strategic investigations, exposing subtle and crude discriminatory practices and assisting aggrieved individuals.

Second, it must persuade and pressure the government to initiate policies and enact measures designed to redress clearly identified areas of grievances. Third, it must act as a think-tank, analyse long-term trends, anticipate problems and propose ways of dealing with them. And finally, it must promote better understanding between the ethnic minorities and the majority community by such means as writing off the Commission and encouraging closer contacts.

Without minimizing its achievements, it cannot be denied that the Commission's performance in these areas has been disappointing. Its policy document took a long time coming and lacks coherence and focus. In such matters as the Sex Laws, the initiative came from outside it, and its response was slow and evasive. So far as strategic investigation is concerned, the Commission's targets were not always wise and its actions were not generally forceful. And its contribution to long-term policy-making has been virtually nil. Not surprisingly more and more people are writing off the Commission and talking of turning to the streets.

The Commission's record is disappointing not because it is invested with contradictory functions as you suggest, for all the four functions listed earlier are legitimate concerns and cannot be separated, but for other reasons. First, the commissioners, chosen for ethnic and political balance and not their experience and commitment, have failed to provide leadership. Notwithstanding the general impression to the contrary, all but a couple of the five commissioners recently dropped made little impact on the communities they were supposed to serve.

Second, the Commission has lacked close contact with the ethnic minorities, especially the youth whose participation in the formulation of its policies is extremely limited. Third, its internal administrative structure with its strange divisions of functions and departments is inherently ill-equipped for decisive action. And finally, the successive governments, which have never really been interested in ending racism, have severely restricted the Commission's capacity for action by denying it the necessary co-operation and resources.

If the Commission is to achieve its basic objective, it should have a house in order and the government should give it the personnel, help and leadership it so badly needs.

Yours faithfully,

PRINCE PAREKH, Chairman, National Association for Asian Youth, 45 High Street, Southall, Middlesex, April 14.

Soviet cinema

From Mr Ian Christie. Sir, I am puzzled as to why *The Times* Film Correspondent, Mr David Robinson, should have devoted so much of his review column on April 11 to a discussion of Soviet films which are not available in this country at present.

I did not, as Mr Robinson implies, "conveniently" forget *Paradise Lost* or *Baranenko* in my introduction to the season; these and many other names were not included for the simple reason that they were not relevant to my brief characterization of the present state of the Soviet cinema and its generally dismal reputation abroad. During the long negotiations for the season I lost no opportunity to challenge the assumptions of Soviet cinema officials and to argue a position which, I suspect, is not far removed from that of Mr Robinson. None the less, a short note in the National Film Theatre programme, which is scarcely the place to develop a general analysis of the Soviet cinema and its shortcomings, and if Mr Robinson finds this "evasive", I would suggest that his refusal to discuss the films—did he speak on their stated terms—is equally evasive. Indeed it is in itself a denial of his own claim that "cultural exchange [is] a more effective form of communication than boycott and turned back."

There is much simple ignorance of Soviet cinema in this country, as well as conventional political hostility, and it is particularly distressing that an acknowledged expert on the cinema of Eastern Europe should, in effect, turn his back. Yours, etc.

IAN CHRISTIE, British Film Institute, 127 Charing Cross Road, WC2, April 16.

The old order.

From Mr J. H. White. Sir, In your issue of April 12 you reported Mr Len Murray as saying that the proposed cuts in educational expenditure "would return schools to the thirties."

May I remind him, through the courtesy of your columns, that in the thirties teachers' salaries were 10 per cent out in their meagre salaries—and no one took strike action.

As one whose teaching career started in 1927, it seems to me that when the NUT became affiliated with the TUC teaching, in the public sector at least, ceased to be a profession and became merely an occupation.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. WHITE, 35 St James's Drive, SW17, April 12.

Documentaries and history

From Mr L. P. Altman. Sir, Colonel Buckmaster (April 9) and Jean Fuller (April 15) have rendered further service by their letters concerning the screening of *A Man Called Intrepid*. Their letters are unlikely to reach the much larger and varied viewing audience.

This is particularly regrettable as there is a danger that this type of "dramatized documentary" will increase.

They may be regarded by the television companies and others as entertainment and suitable for export. However, they may well be interpreted in different ways now, and when repeated in future years and to wider and more varied viewers—to a significant number of whom this will be the only medium in which they are likely to gain any impression of historical events.

Censorship is certainly not called for, but television companies would do well seriously to review this trend—not against ratings—but taking into account the opinions of those who, thankfully, are alive and well to make their point today.

Yours faithfully,

LIONEL P. ALTMAN, 61 Grosvenor Street, W1, April 16.

Overseas students' fees

From the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Sir, While appreciating the present-day need for national economies, and that academic expenditure must be subject to the same control, I am concerned as to whether the long-term effect of increasing the fees charged to overseas students has been sufficiently considered.

Over 20 per cent of the present members of the Institution of Civil Engineers are overseas engineers, and thus we have a special interest in overseas students.

Student engineers returning after graduating in Britain to their own countries take with them much good will for this country. In economic terms this good will can often lead to these engineers looking to this country for British manufactures, for consultancy services or for contracting work, and to the continued use of British publications, textbooks, computer programmes and technology.

It is the long-term advantages which will not be overlooked by short-term economies.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. N. GEDDES, Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, SW1, April 16.

Long Tito illness gives successors chance to prove themselves

Yugoslavia keeps tried and trusted policies

As President Tito lies critically ill in the intensive care ward of Ljubljana hospital, thousands of young Yugoslavs have started the traditional relay across the country carrying the baton with good wishes on his birthday which falls on May 25.

The tradition has lasted for 35 years. It has always been an emotional occasion to symbolize national unity and the young generation's commitment to President Tito personally and to his ideas; this time more than ever as President Tito lives his last days and Yugoslavia waits for the inevitable to happen.

It is now just over three months since President Tito fell ill and Yugoslavia suddenly found itself on the threshold of the post-Tito era. His protracted illness has undoubtedly helped the transition. It gave the people enough time to overcome the initial shock and anxiety over the future.

It gave his successors enough time to assume their responsibilities and put the intricate system of collective leadership President Tito set up 11 years ago to its first real test.

So far the system has proved capable of securing a smooth transition. President Tito's successors have demonstrated that they are set on maintaining the course which Yugoslavia has followed under his leadership. They have kept up momentum in their foreign policy by maintaining close links with the nonaligned and securing support from Western countries. These latter efforts were crowned recently by the agreement with the EEC which ought to ease Yugoslavia's economic problems and especially its heavy indebtedness.

The leaders have shown themselves extremely sensitive to any manifestations of nationalism but equally so to reactions that repressive action might provoke.

Recently, for example, the trial of 50 or so Albanians accused of anti-state activity in the Kosovo region was announced by a Belgrade newspaper, which is said to have consisted predominantly of schoolteachers, has been actively advocating union with Albania and disseminating pamphlets and slogans against President Tito's regime.

But a few days later the Communist Party leader of the

region, who is also a member of the party's 24-member praesidium, Mr. Mahmut Bakali, accused the Belgrade newspaper of spreading "irresponsible and exaggerated rumours" and thus serving the exaggerations in the Western press. He admitted, however, that an unspecified number of Albanian nationalists are undergoing investigation for offences committed last year but he was at pains to give the incident less importance than reported by the Belgrade newspaper. This indicates the sensitivity of the problem.

The new leadership over these past three months has been standing up to the Russians. It has demonstrated a firm stand on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and it has bluntly refused to attend the Soviet-backed Communist conference in Paris because it regards it as convened simply to back up the Soviet position and gloss over the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan.

Foreign affairs are in the hands of Mr. Milos Milin, former foreign minister and now a member of the top leadership. He believes that

Yugoslavia can achieve a workable relationship with Russia only by showing firmness and resolve.

The collective leadership represents the different nationalities, and every leader depends on backing from his home base. Jobs in the state and party praesidium rotate annually, and the system is now being introduced at all levels and in all institutions, except, of course, in the armed forces.

The presiding member of the state presidency is Mr. Lazar Kolisevski, whose term expires in May, when he will presumably be succeeded by the representative from Bosnia, and former Yugoslav ambassador to Moscow, Mr. Cvijetin Mijatovic. Yugoslavs admit that not everybody is equally capable but this is partly balanced by the fact that all decisions have to be taken either by consensus or majority vote.

The leaders seem confident. They have used the long transition to prove themselves to the nation. They have shown themselves capable of defending President Tito's legacy but so far no new ideas have emerged. They seem, at least in this

initial stage, to have settled for habit rather than bold innovation. This has in fact been the feature of President Tito's rule for some years, consolidating rather than searching for new solutions to the problems which have been apparent for some time.

The question now is whether such an intricate system can work efficiently in the long run, especially given the serious economic problems now facing Yugoslavia. Inflation is running at about 30 per cent, unemployment at 15 per cent, and the foreign debt at \$2,000m. Yugoslavs say the system can cope, though even members of the leadership do not exclude the possibility that a single leader may emerge in the future.

The trouble obviously with such a collective team is that no one wants to take responsibility for decisions which in any case are not his. But, as a Yugoslav journalist said: "Perhaps someone completely unknown today, as Tito was in 1940, will emerge, though he may not have Tito's charisma. But, most important of all, he must have the gift of conciliating the nationalities."

Dessa Trevisan



Jelal Talabani lecturing new cadres at his party mountain stronghold in Nawrang

Kurdish rebels renew threat to Baghdad

The grim and inhospitable mountains that lie in the triangle between Iraq, Iran and Turkey are the traditional heartland of the Kurdish nation. The arbitrary boundary lines drawn across them are little more than an administrative fiction to the turbulent Kurds. The mountains have been the birthplace of innumerable rebellions, and it is from there that the late Mustafa Barzani's exhausted partisans retreated to Iran in April, 1975, when their 15-year struggle against Iraq came to an end.

For nearly a year the Iraqi Army, enjoying the unusual experience of moving freely through the gorges and valleys, while the Baathist regime tried to forestall any rebellion by destroying Kurdish villages near the border and deporting the inhabitants far to the south.

But as might have been guessed from even the most superficial reading of the Kurdish character that was a forlorn hope; though General Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) had been crushed, other forces soon began to infiltrate the mountains, at first in isolated groups and later in organized parties.

While Barzani's old political opponent, Jelal Talabani, moved into the triangle to form the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), the new KDP, renamed KDP (Provisional Leadership), but dominated by Barzani's sons Idris and Masud, tried to maintain a presence in their tribal base of Badinan.

The full of the Shah and the rapid spread of Kurdish nationalism in Iran gave a new twist to the situation. It was with the help of Iranian Kurdish partisans that I was able last month to travel from Mahabad to the PUK's mountain stronghold in Iraq.

From the town of Sardesh, where two French journalists were arrested by the Iranian Army in the last week of March, we took a Land-Rover to a small village near the border. From there we faced a day's march, crossing the snow-covered mountains over traditional smugglers' paths. With the spring thaw the track had turned to thick mud, into which mules frequently sank to their hocks.

Jelal Talabani's winter headquarters in Nawrang run far on either flank of a narrow valley overlooking the Noker river, a tributary of the Lesser Zab. Both Merga units are scattered up and down the river valley to provide cover. Jelal Talabani has already been fought against the Iraqi Army.

The complex shelters the political leadership, training schools, a rudimentary hospital, printing press and a power station. For the past two months it has also been home for two Yugoslav technicians, employees of a firm working on a dam project for the Iraqi Government, who were captured by the PUK on February 4. They seem cheerful and on good terms with their captors, who abducted them in protest at Yugoslavia's ties with Baghdad; negotiations are in hand for their release in exchange for medical equipment.

Plans are in hand to install a radio station, but Jelal Talabani has no intention of repeating Barzani's mistake of 1975 in attempting to defend the Rawanduz Valley, a mistake that committed him to a full-scale battle. Nawrang is an explicable position, one with no roads to facilitate attack but easily abandoned. The PUK's military activity consists of guerrilla hit-and-run actions far to the south and west. Small Pesh Merga units come and go regularly, often travelling through Iranian Kurdistan before striking at targets in Iraq. Baghdad's policy of "security belt" along the border has made things difficult for the Kurds, but the situation in Iran has compensated for that.

The Kurdish supply line depends a good deal on the smugglers bringing in carpets, samovars and manufactured goods from Iran. The PUK makes use of that traditional activity by providing a bazaar in which goods are sold to Iraqi smugglers and the Peshmerga themselves. A tax is levied on all goods.

Links with the Iranian Kurdish movement are informal; numbers of PUK Peshmerga crossed the border to fight in Iran last year, though the party was not involved, and Iranian Kurdish leaders including Shaikh Ezzeddin Rostami and Abdul Rahman Kassabli were welcomed here after the fall of Mahabad in September. Iranian Kurds have in the past helped defend the Nawrang area.

Established in June, 1975, the PUK is a "semi-front" organization composed of four smaller groups. Its founders decided that the Kurdish struggle must be based on an alliance rather than one party because a number of trends and policies had to be reconciled. A year later the first armed groups appeared in Badinan and Sulaymaniyah provinces. In August, 1976, Ali Askari, a respected military leader in Barzani's old KDP and co-founder of the Kurdistan Socialist Movement, also took to the mountains under

the PUK banner, end of the year claimed more than 100 deaths.

However, it was to expand in the influence of the faithful to the Kurdish civil war there. Askari's leaders were exiled Barzani's KDP (PL).

The limitations KDP policy, with once on trial put to leave the party lines. More serious to Iran in 1975 as continuing Iranian success seemed to Idris Barzani into the Iranian.

Reports of KDP directed against brethren in Iraq and of Idris Barzani Kurds in the Uru support of the are too numerous from too wide sources to be a prestige of the PUK in undisputed of the rebellion in

Jelal Talabani's group to the E. Rally, an alliance of groups.

Barzani's Socialist Movement, Communist Party, Nationalists, Equal is the recent alliance of Communist Party of a fully fit front, long a PU now on the drawl.

By cooperating with the PUK's A in full agreement programme of within an Iraqi programme that responsibility for foreign affairs a control in the Government. T cation" of the K tion has already PUK useful money hopes it will pre card against Pre Hussein's regime.

John

Argentina well on its way to joining nuclear nations

Since 1974 Argentina has had a nuclear power station contributing energy to its national grid. By 1985 it will be in a position to process the complete nuclear fuel cycle necessary to make its own atomic fuel or its own bomb if it so wishes.

For governments in the northern hemisphere with the customary high ratio of prejudice to knowledge about Latin America, the prospect is appalling. Argentina has not signed any nuclear non-proliferation treaty, and has not even ratified the Treaty of Tlatelolco declaring Latin America a nuclear weapon-free zone.

Successive Argentine administrations, civilian and military, have merely declared that they are not interested in making an atomic bomb, and they consider that assurance adequate for the peace of mind of the rest of the world.

This attitude is shared by Argentina's two most powerful neighbours, Brazil and Chile, who have equally resisted pressure to sign the non-proliferation treaties. Moreover, despite geographical confrontations with Argentina, neither country has ever expressed concern about their neighbour's nuclear capabilities.

For South Americans see the concept of non-proliferation as little more than a ploy of the rich man's club to keep the poor in their place. In their eyes the developed countries are losing their hold on the technology of the 1950s which were responsible for their economic success. As the world's centre of gravity in steel, copper and shipbuilding moves south and east, so the "developed countries" living standards have stagnated and

their vested interests are determined that the same should not happen with the technologies of the 1970s.

Argentines point to the American industrial lobby's support for the policy of "denials", that is the Carter Administration's refusal, backed by Congress, to allow transfer of nuclear technology to countries which have not signed the non-proliferation treaties.

They also take offence that one group of European immigrants in the New World consider themselves responsible enough to handle nuclear technology, but do not credit that responsibility to another group of immigrants in the same hemisphere.

Argentina has always agreed to apply the safeguards laid down by the International Atomic Energy Organization, and under these circumstances cannot see justification in the refusal of the American Government to let it buy materials and technology necessary for its nuclear development.

Argentina is quite consistent in its dealings with less advanced Latin American countries. Its Atomic Energy Commission is designing and building a nuclear research centre in Peru, a technology transfer agreement is being drawn up with Venezuela and next month President Figueroa of Brazil will sign a cooperation treaty in which Argentina is expected to provide its neighbour with tubes used for burning nuclear fuel.

Argentina has more than 27,000 tons of proven reserves of uranium, and plans already in operation can produce 160 tons of uranium dioxide concentrated (yellowcake) per

year. By 1983 it will be multiplied

The country's power station, Canadians, should 1982, and last of Germany, country attract to build the power stations plenty. Stimuli Swiss firm of St was awarded a build a heavy wa a production of 22

It was the awa contracts that attention of Administration, accede to Ameri on safeguards. Government initi with the French sians and made it would not be pu of attaining nuclearity in its own v

The United St revised its Attu Wyder, chair science and tec mittee of the Ho senators, headed sional mission to culties in the tr clear technology.

Rear Admiral Madero, President's Atomic En sion, believes the ing itself yet to treaties Argentina itself negotiating. "Argentina is amply safeguards affect her sove said, "but she si detente formal which future may make detri progress. If a c to make the bom so, and a polic will merely cur without stopping)

Ton

Forecast: Wet and Dry.

When you come to think of it, rain has much to recommend it. Forced to remain indoors, one relies on one's own resources. Which, with a bit of foresight, should include plenty of ice and Martini Dry, with its clean, fresh blend of fine wines and herbs. Thus, every raincloud has a silver lining, because when it rains, it pours.

MARTINI Extra Dry

The right one. Just by itself.

Stock Exchange Prices

Oils active in quiet market

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, April 14. Dealings End, April 25. \$ Contango Day, April 28. Settlement Day, May 6.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

ments from the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission give insight to events behind the silver collapse

The Hunt brothers campaigned against extension of margin restrictions

April 17.—Mr. Nelson Hunt and Mr. W. Herbert Hunt since last autumn to dissuade agency that oversees the silver on encouraging tighter regulations in the face of rising silver

Some of these discussions are documents written by officials, commodities, Futures Trading for their records. The agency is the documents yesterday to S. Rosenthal, chairman of the committee on commerce, commodity affairs, which is the silver market's recent

cy memoranda, also show that Hunt Jr., one of the four made repeated calls, beginning in 1978, to officials at other federal including the Treasury and the

Federal Reserve Board, to discuss the silver markets and to solicit their views on the development.

A memorandum written by Mr. Dunn, dated April 9, states: "The only person from either agency who ever expressed concern about the silver market was Robert Carwell". The memo said that Mr. Carwell, deputy secretary of the Treasury, called on March 31 after silver prices had plunged. Mr. Carwell could not be reached for comment.

According to the trading commission's memoranda, one or the other of the Hunt brothers made the following points to the commission in meetings and telephone conversations between October and January.

1. Margin requirements, the amount of money necessary to buy or sell a futures contract in silver on a commodity exchange, were too high.

2. The Hunts said they hoped that no

limits or other artificial restraints would be imposed on the markets, particularly not before the first of the year.

3. The Hunts said they would incur a substantial tax on their transactions if they had to liquidate their positions before last January 1 to fall within limits on positions held by investors.

4. They claimed they had played no part in the rise in silver prices in Autumn 1979. Mr. W. Herbert Hunt said on November 7 that his futures trading position was no larger than the positions he had held consistently since 1973, and was actually half as large as the positions he sometimes held.

5. The Hunts said they traded their futures contracts independently of each other. There is no indication that the Hunts influenced the commission's decisions on the silver futures markets. In fact, commissioners repeatedly expressed their concern during these same months that a

few larger investors were creating problems in the markets.

When the silver commodity exchanges subsequently imposed higher margins and set limits on positions investors could hold, the commission did not oppose these moves. Some commissioners encouraged moves that the Hunts had argued against.

The Hunts told the commission that such moves were unfair and worked to the advantage of exchange members and against themselves.

One of the issues now being examined by Mr. Rosenthal and other government officials is whether the futures commission maintained adequate monitoring of the silver markets in recent months and whether it took sufficient steps to prevent possible problems.

Yesterday a federal official close to one of the investigations said that the description of Mr. Dunn's appeals to other government agencies was overstated and

was an attempt by the commission to protect itself.

The present investigations were spurred by the sudden and rapid plunge in silver prices from a high of just more than \$55 (£25) an ounce in January to \$10.80 an ounce in late March, which left the Hunts scrambling for hundreds of millions of dollars to cover their losses in the silver markets.

Despite the Hunts' initial difficulties in raising funds quickly, they have subsequently paid off many of their losses in cash, silver or oil and gas properties they owned.

According to commission memoranda Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt told Mr. Dunn and several staff members at a meeting on October 25 that one of the biggest problems in the markets was that margin requirements were too high.

Mr. James M. Stone, the chairman of the futures commission, said recently that

he would like the commission to have the power of setting minimum requirements for margins.

According to a November 9 memorandum from a commission staff member, Mr. W. Herbert Hunt complained in a meeting he called that margin requirements had risen so high that he no longer made economic sense to use the futures markets.

The Hunts said they usually had opted to use the futures markets instead of the cash market, because they found it easier to deal in the large volume transactions in futures.

When the Chicago Board of Trade first considered such restrictions, Mr. W. Herbert Hunt complained to Mr. Dunn that if the limits were imposed he would be forced to liquidate some of his holdings at a loss, particularly if they were imposed before the new tax year began on January 1.—New York Times News Service.

Group Gold Mining Companies Orange Free State

Reports of the directors for the quarter ended 31st March, 1980

STATE GEDULD

Gold Mines Limited

10 440 000 shares of 50 cents each

Quarter ended Mar. 1980

6 months ended Mar. 1980

12 months ended Mar. 1980

18 months ended Mar. 1980

24 months ended Mar. 1980

30 months ended Mar. 1980

36 months ended Mar. 1980

42 months ended Mar. 1980

48 months ended Mar. 1980

54 months ended Mar. 1980

60 months ended Mar. 1980

66 months ended Mar. 1980

72 months ended Mar. 1980

78 months ended Mar. 1980

84 months ended Mar. 1980

90 months ended Mar. 1980

96 months ended Mar. 1980

102 months ended Mar. 1980

108 months ended Mar. 1980

114 months ended Mar. 1980

120 months ended Mar. 1980

126 months ended Mar. 1980

132 months ended Mar. 1980

138 months ended Mar. 1980

144 months ended Mar. 1980

150 months ended Mar. 1980

156 months ended Mar. 1980

162 months ended Mar. 1980

168 months ended Mar. 1980

174 months ended Mar. 1980

180 months ended Mar. 1980

186 months ended Mar. 1980

192 months ended Mar. 1980

198 months ended Mar. 1980

204 months ended Mar. 1980

210 months ended Mar. 1980

216 months ended Mar. 1980

222 months ended Mar. 1980

228 months ended Mar. 1980

234 months ended Mar. 1980

240 months ended Mar. 1980

246 months ended Mar. 1980

252 months ended Mar. 1980

258 months ended Mar. 1980

264 months ended Mar. 1980

270 months ended Mar. 1980

276 months ended Mar. 1980

282 months ended Mar. 1980

288 months ended Mar. 1980

294 months ended Mar. 1980

300 months ended Mar. 1980

306 months ended Mar. 1980

312 months ended Mar. 1980

318 months ended Mar. 1980

324 months ended Mar. 1980

330 months ended Mar. 1980

336 months ended Mar. 1980

342 months ended Mar. 1980

348 months ended Mar. 1980

354 months ended Mar. 1980

360 months ended Mar. 1980

366 months ended Mar. 1980

372 months ended Mar. 1980

378 months ended Mar. 1980

384 months ended Mar. 1980

PRESIDENT STEYN—Continued

Development

Advance metres

Channel width

Sampled

Gold

Uranium

10 g/t

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PRESIDENT BRAND

President Brand Gold Mining Company Limited

ISSUED CAPITAL: 14 040 000 units of 50 cents each

Quarter ended Mar. 1980

6 months ended Mar. 1980

12 months ended Mar. 1980

18 months ended Mar. 1980

24 months ended Mar. 1980

30 months ended Mar. 1980

36 months ended Mar. 1980

42 months ended Mar. 1980

48 months ended Mar. 1980

54 months ended Mar. 1980

60 months ended Mar. 1980

66 months ended Mar. 1980

72 months ended Mar. 1980

78 months ended Mar. 1980

84 months ended Mar. 1980

90 months ended Mar. 1980

96 months ended Mar. 1980

102 months ended Mar. 1980

108 months ended Mar. 1980

114 months ended Mar. 1980

120 months ended Mar. 1980

126 months ended Mar. 1980

132 months ended Mar. 1980

138 months ended Mar. 1980

144 months ended Mar. 1980

150 months ended Mar. 1980

156 months ended Mar. 1980

162 months ended Mar. 1980

168 months ended Mar. 1980

174 months ended Mar. 1980

180 months ended Mar. 1980

186 months ended Mar. 1980

192 months ended Mar. 1980

198 months ended Mar. 1980

204 months ended Mar. 1980

210 months ended Mar. 1980

216 months ended Mar. 1980

222 months ended Mar. 1980

228 months ended Mar. 1980

234 months ended Mar. 1980

240 months ended Mar. 1980

246 months ended Mar. 1980

252 months ended Mar. 1980

258 months ended Mar. 1980

264 months ended Mar. 1980

270 months ended Mar. 1980

276 months ended Mar. 1980

282 months ended Mar. 1980

288 months ended Mar. 1980

294 months ended Mar. 1980

300 months ended Mar. 1980

306 months ended Mar. 1980

312 months ended Mar. 1980

318 months ended Mar. 1980

324 months ended Mar. 1980

330 months ended Mar. 1980

336 months ended Mar. 1980

342 months ended Mar. 1980

348 months ended Mar. 1980

354 months ended Mar. 1980

360 months ended Mar. 1980

366 months ended Mar. 1980

372 months ended Mar. 1980

378 months ended Mar. 1980

384 months ended Mar. 1980

FREE STATE SAAIPLAAS—Continued

Development

Advance metres

Channel width

Sampled

Gold

Uranium

10 g/t

10 g/t

10 g/t

10 g/t

10 g/t

10 g/t

10 g/t

10 g/t

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10 g/t



China set to replace Taiwan on IMF

The Executive board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected to grant membership to China and oust Taiwan.

This would open the door to Peking's full economic partnership with the non-communist world and leave the Soviet Union as the sole remaining major communist power outside 140-member organization. It would also enable China to become a member of the World Bank, which provides about \$10,000m (£4.33bn) a year in credit to developing countries. However there could still be a hitch. The technicalities of transferring the IMF seat of one country to another still has to be settled.

Payment problem

The Mitsubishi Motor Corporation will start car engine production next month for the Chrysler Corporation if agreement is reached between them on payment procedure. Mitsubishi has proposed that cash payments be made by wire transfer.

Steel plant appeal

Nigeria has renewed its call to the Soviet Union to put the Ajakuta steel complex—being built by Soviet workmen—into operation. Mr I. C. Madubuike, the federal education minister, made the appeal to the Soviet ambassador, Mr V. V. Snegulov.

12,000 jobs lost

General Motors Corporation has laid off 12,000 car workers at assembly plants which produce larger models with high fuel consumption. The move came after the company reduced shifts and assembly line speeds.

Preferential tariffs end

Australia will end its remaining preferential tariffs for imports from Britain and Ireland next year. Australia began phasing out the Commonwealth preferential rate in 1973 when Britain joined the EEC.

£80m market shows dramatic decline in sales and big growth in stocks

Caravan makers facing a rough ride

Tourer caravan manufacturers, whose home market was worth £80m last year, are being hit by a sales decline of at least 10 per cent, combined with over-production and heavy stocks in the distribution pipeline.

Production cutbacks of a third are now becoming common, involving redundancies and lay-offs. There are increasing fears that if later spring sales do not make up for the slackness of customer demand so far this season, a number of manufacturers, particularly smaller ones, could be driven out of business.

One small manufacturer closed down in the Hull area towards the end of last year, but the first major casualty has emerged with Astral Caravans ending production after being in tourer caravan manufacture for 21 years.

The Hull-based Spooner construction group, of which Astral was a subsidiary, decided to pull out of the sector partly because exports had been proving more difficult as European sales generally had dropped at the same time that sterling's strength had made exports harder to sell. But the United Kingdom market decline also hit Astral, and Spooner could see no improvement in the situation this year.

The Astral closedown has cost 90 jobs but any other redundancies and lay-offs in the industry would particularly hit Humberston, which is the largest single centre for caravan production.

In Scotland Thomson T-Line, caravan makers for more than 70 years, have been

cutting tourer production by around a third for some months, and has reduced their workforce on tourer production by half to 90 in the past two years. In common with many other manufacturers they have been finding that sales of caravans for static use, as holiday homes or for residential purposes, have been much more stable.

Glasgow-based Thomson Caravans with a workforce of 200, has also cut production by around a third, although other coach-building work has so far largely mopped up the excess capacity. But the company is "watching the situation closely".

Among the four largest companies in caravan manufacture—A-Line Caravans, ABI Caravans, Caravans International and Cosalt Caravans—ABI have found sales patchy this season, but largely around 10 per cent down. Other companies are putting the possible sales decline this season as high as 15 per cent.

The manufacturers are worried that even if sales pick up during the latter spring it will probably take most of this year to dent the pile-up of stock both in their own yards and with the caravan dealers. Some makers estimate that there is as much as a year's production in the pipeline.

Some manufacturers and dealers use stock financing deals, with hire purchase companies providing the cash back-up, under which unsold caravans could after a period revert to the manufacturers. Unless there is a sharp pick-up in sales

this could place heavy pressure on smaller manufacturers and is largely why fears are growing that more will be forced out of business.

The precarious state of some makers is underlined in a survey of the financial performance of caravan manufacturers over a two-year period by Inter Company Comparisons. ICC traced a steady profits decline with only 69 per cent of key companies improving their turnover and only 45 per cent improving profits.

ICC suggests that companies are closing; margins are likely and the future is bleak. The industry believes that this analysis might prove somewhat pessimistic for static caravans. This is because at times when disposable income is hit, the static market usually does well.

But the analysis looks undeniable in the tourer sector as both the first-time buyer market and the replacement market seem hit by a combination of shortage of cash among consumers and the increasing running costs involved in touring.

Existing caravan owners there are around 335,000 tourers in use compared with some 255,000 static holiday homes and 97,000 mobile homes—seen most likely to put off a decision to trade up to a new model.

Derek Harris

*Camping and Caravan Equipment Manufacturers and Distributors, third edition: Inter Company Comparisons (ICC), £40.80.

Thorn EMI video link with Japan

By Our Commercial Editor

The chances of Britain becoming a significant base for production of video disc machines as well as the discs themselves grew yesterday with the announcement of a co-operation agreement between JVC—the Victor Company of Japan—and Thorn EMI.

The "close relationship" agreement is aimed at promoting JVC's VHD-AHD (video high density audio high density) disc system which JVC plans to introduce in Europe and the United States by the end of 1981.

But as production builds up during the following year, it is likely that first assembly and then at least part-manufacture would be considered at Thorn EMI production centres. Increasing automation is likely to mean that skilled labour could be switched to video disc and machine production or assembly.

JVC's video disc system, anticipating a much bigger market by the middle of the decade, will be in competition with systems from Philips and the United States-based RCA. Philips, which plans a European launch for its disc system next year, has plans for pressing to be done at a converted factory in Blackburn, Lancashire.

BP's German offshoot in joint coal gasification venture

Gelsenberg AG, a West German subsidiary of British Petroleum, and Fried Krupp GmbH

have taken a first step towards a joint coal gasification company by founding a planning company for coal gasification.

In a joint statement, the two companies said a project team would study the technical and economic preconditions for building a commercial plant to gasify coal on the basis of Koppers-Totzek technology developed by Krupp Koppers

GmbH Krupp's subsidiary.

The two companies apparently wish to build a plant at a coastal site in either Schleswig Holstein or Lower Saxony but have not counted out an inland site, as long as the transport infrastructure is favourable.

The plant would process coal to produce motor fuels, motor fuel additives and products for the chemical industry.

Dr Hellmuth Budenberg, the chief executive of Deutsche BP, British Petroleum's German

subsidiary and the parent company of Gelsenberg, is visiting

Australia to study latest coal processing developments and explore the possibilities of shipping Australian coal to West Germany.

He said in Canberra that Deutsche BP intended to build up its activities in the coal sector and that Ruhrkohle AG, the West German coal producing company, had expressed an interest in joining the new planning company.

Unit trusts pass the 10-year test

By Sylvia Morris

Unit trusts have over the decade generally produced a result which stands comparison with any other investment medium, Mr Cholmeley Messer, chairman of the Unit Trust Association, said at the annual meeting yesterday.

The last year had been a good one for the industry which now had £3,940m under management with no less than six developments to improve conditions.

Mr Messer said that the lifting of dividend controls last

July followed by the abolition of exchange control in the autumn had been beneficial and the removal of Department of Trade restrictions on what managers could charge for their services had also helped.

This year's Budget had granted unit trusts exemption from capital gains tax on their funds and at the same time individual investment had been encouraged with the raising from capital gains tax limit from £1,000 to £5,000.

Then came perhaps the best

news, with the proposed reduction in the Finance Bill on the rate of tax paid on income generated by gilts held within a unit trust from 52 per cent corporation tax to 30 per cent basic rate tax.

The punitive rate of tax charged on this type of income has generally restricted unit trust groups from launching funds invested in gilts. Now a major opportunity has been opened up to them at a time when industry sales are flagging.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Building contracts and reasons of cost rises

From Mr A. C. Ensom

Sir, Mr A. G. Johnstone (Letters April 9) puts forward an interesting suggestion to solve some of the problems of additional costs in building contracts. However, I think he misunderstands the way in which most contracts work and has omitted to mention a major reason for over-expenditure.

The cost of the types of unforeseen delays which he mentions (increased interest rates, labour disputes, weather, raw material shortages, etc.) are already normally borne by the contractor and would, therefore, not form part of an additional payment to him.

The extremely slow settlement of accounts by both central and local government is certainly a problem and most contractors will take account of the cost of this when tendering but I doubt that payment will be any faster just because the money comes from a Trustee Investment Account. It is the process of authorizing payment which is so slow.

The main reason for over-expenditure is that changes in

specification are made during the course of construction. These may arise because the employer changes his mind but more frequently they are due to inadequate preparation of drawings, specifications, etc. before the contract is tendered. The costs involved in these changes are high and under standard forms of building contract can be passed on to the employer. The problem needs to be tackled at the pre-contract stage, when documents should more accurately reflect the designers' intentions. The solution lies in the hands of architects and others involved in the design process who should produce adequate documentation and the employers, who should insist that this is done so that the contractor's tender accurately reflects the final cost by eliminating the need for subsequent changes. Yours faithfully, A. C. ENSOM, Watts and Partners, Construction Consultants, 109 Lewisham High Street, London, SE13 6AT, April 9.

Taxpayer savings: investor

From Mr Adrian Gray
Sir, There is no doubt that tax payers' Mr Hu (April 8), director of Tax Payers' wants the Government any savings on expenditure in the Civil Service, to be used for tax cuts. Has nobody told tax payers, through the Government, that more than £30,000 are collected through the system? Mr Huibert-Power be content to pass on that debt onto the grandchildren, and grandchildren, for most of us will be dead by the time we are 30. Let us restore the tax system to its original position by lobbying the Government to pursue such measures which would amortise the tax, the next 30 years (a possible 100 years). ADRIAN GRAY, 21 Russell Road, Wimbledon, SW19 1

Unfair Contract Terms Act

From Mr C. A. Pratt
Sir, Concerning the Unfair Contract Terms Act (April 10) effects (or non-effects) of the Act, by running their corner shop with sufficient dedication, all projects from the bus shelter to the latest power station will continue to slip through the net of cost efficiency. Your's faithfully, ALAN A. PRATT, Building Contractor, 41, St. Mary, Exeter, April 10.

Solar energy without sunshine

From Mr J. H. Miller

Sir, In your issue of Friday, March 21, there is a point in your article "Plugging Into The Sun For Profit" which needs clarification.

Evacuated glass tubes with compound parabolic reflectors can and do pick up energy from daylight when the sky is covered by clouds and the sun cannot be seen. These compound parabolic concentrators

can and do work with diffused light.

On the south side of a factory in southern England there are 48 of these vacuum tube CPCs which have been, for the past several months, producing hot water for use in the factory.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, J. H. MILLER, FRAE, 49, Avenue Hector Otto, Monaco, Principauté de Monaco, April 10.

Ultramar: the British Oil Company

Revenues exceed £1,000 million

Points from Mr. Campbell Nelson's Statement to the Shareholders

The Ultramar figures for 1979: revenues exceed £1,000 million, cash flow from operations was £86 million, pre-tax profit was over £75 million and net profit nearly £47 million.

All of our major divisions contributed to these excellent results. We are particularly pleased with the showing of Indonesian, Californian, Western Canadian and Caribbean operations.

The 1979 drilling programme resulted in substantial increases to our gas and oil reserves.

Our Balance Sheet position is greatly improved. Cash flow from operations exceeded our capital expenditures and permitted us to increase our working capital by some £33 million.

In November last we paid an interim dividend of 5p (net) per share on the

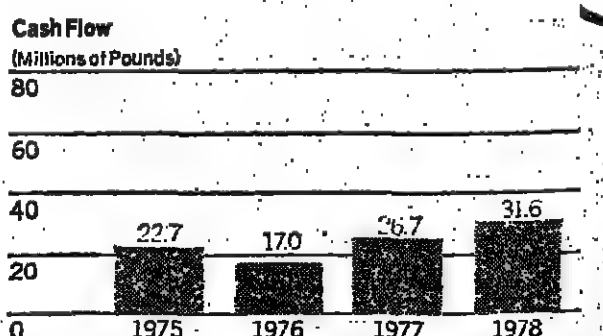
Ordinary Shares. We have been able to follow this up by proposing a final dividend of 10p (net) per Ordinary Share. We are also recommending a capitalisation issue of one Ordinary Share for each one held.

Our capital expenditure programme for the next few years will probably be heavily slanted toward exploration drilling. We will be spending large sums in Indonesia, the North Sea and Western Canada; and lesser amounts in Egypt, Australia and elsewhere.

We are determined to make a major effort in the U.K. North Sea. We have joined a number of separate groups to apply for licences being offered in the seventh round.

Despite business recession, runaway inflation and high interest rates, we have many good things going for us in 1980. At our Annual General Meeting I shall be able to report to you excellent results for the first quarter. I expect 1980 to be another good year for Ultramar.

| Summarised Financial Results | 1979 | 1978 | 1977 | 1976 |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|------|
| Sales | £1,001.7 | £955.1 | £472.7 | £571 |
| Operating profit before taxation | 75.4 | 37.7 | 24.7 | 12 |
| Taxation on operating profit | 30.1 | 23.6 | 10.5 | 6 |
| Operating profit after taxation | 45.3 | 14.1 | 14.2 | 6 |
| Foreign exchange fluctuations | 1.5 | (5.5) | (5.5) | 4 |
| Net profit | 46.8 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 10 |



The Annual General Meeting will be held at Winchester 100 Old Broad Street, London EC2, on Friday 9th May, 11.00 am. If you would like a copy of the 1979 Annual Report please complete the coupon.



Ultramar

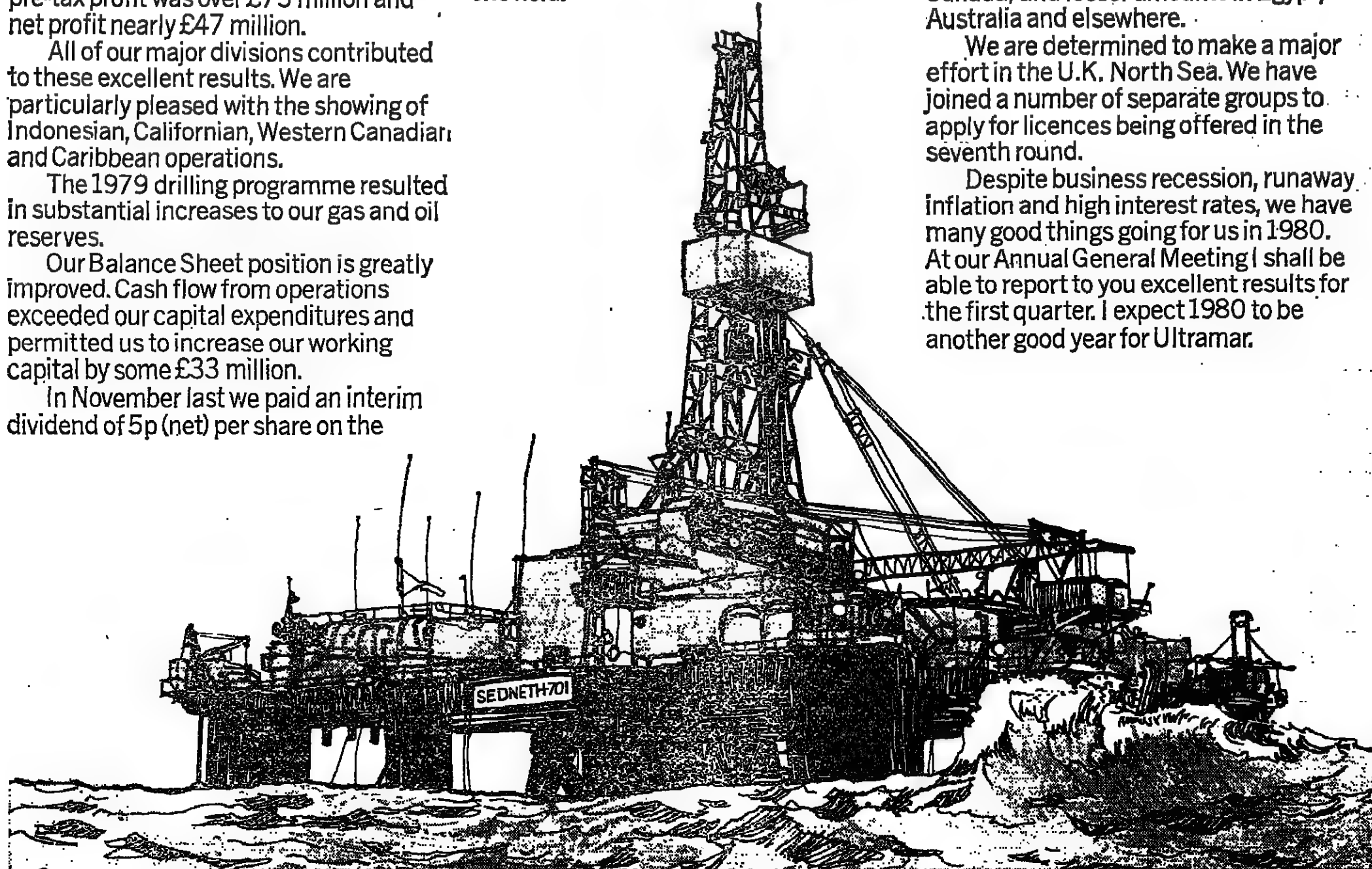
The British Oil Company

Please send me a copy of the Ultramar 1979 Annual Report.

Name _____

Address _____

To: The Secretaries, Ultramar Company Limited, 2 Broad Street Place, London EC2M 7EP.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Towards a cut in MLR

Expected the gilt-edged market of long-dated stock yesterday morning up £500m of funding for the month of June.

Together with yesterday's March supply figures—sterling M3 was up 1.2 per cent—and the reasonably encouraging liability figures last week, that things are coming right on the money market front are steadily becoming

wonder then, particularly with rates apparently on the turn, gilt market is starting to talk in two more good sets of money rates as being enough to justify cut in MLR.

Quite clearly, if the next sets of money supply figures are less than fully convincing, the market is going to think twice before it just as the "corset" is fundamentally, the market is going to think twice before it just as the "corset" is

ing for
ure
ish Petroleum, the annual report of Royal Dutch/Shell Group is full of our current year trading and all lies of operating in the present rate. There must always be a t events in the Middle East will other year of spiralling oil prices ut from its cockpit at the moment ticipating a 2-3 per cent drop in n leading to some sanity in the

l, its traditionally limited access ude supplies has forced it to step : for its own oil and while it will around 7 per cent of its supplies t market in 1980, around 30 per me from its own supplies, over ers of which are outside Opec

BP it will continue to operate at ve disadvantage to the Aramco th their access to cheaper Saudi factor that is already being felt the downstream operations.

his background, Shell is having avily of which the major feature as the purchase of Beldridge for year. This has put something in Shell Oil's balance sheet, lead- ingward of its United States

hell itself the increase in long- by £1,038m to £4,281m and a mp in working capital has left uity ratio little changed at 26.7 d the £2,500m capital spending in 1980 should be accommodated flow.

e, Shell has produced current to its previous current purchas- es, although because they are by the United States authorities capital adjustments have been

his CCA net income drops from £3,051m to only £718m cutting on assets from a third to only

ahead was given for two AGR tions earlier this week the share- northern Engineering Industries build the boilers for both and ing plant for one) have risen by 2 cents to 421p.

urse reflects the input of around h of work (against turnover last 33m) for NEI during the next r years, and says nothing about hich was pretty awful though tedly since NEI was badly hurt inering strike and also had to serious loss-making situation in ar businesses.

ten, run out at only £18m against

to take over the in Sir Charles Vil- British Steel Cor- years top indus- being tripping over in their eagerness ving their country usry chiefs, so any comes up must be a certain amount

one man said by know to be very h of is the no- or Ian MacGregor his time between uve deputy chair- hat other troubled ut BL and various uiness interests in- ining corporation,

ish Joseph ponders :Gregor is his man re to read through ge Earle Memorial ch MacGregor deli- five years ago to tion for Business es. In it he de- more government prosperity and less

As Lord :Thornycroft, Brema's president, put it, the Japanese companies are likely to make "a very great contribution". He then went on, no doubt advisedly, to give his British members a warning about improving efficiency.

He said: "If we are going to make a success, we have got to match in manufacturing efficiency the standards which are reached by our principal competitors in the world. There is no trick solution which would avoid that particular discipline."

Otherwise, he might have added, the Japanese might even come to dominate Brema.

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£30.4m in the previous year and of that shortfall perhaps £7m can be attributed to the national engineering dispute and around £6.1m to the problems at Reynolds, that taking in both trading losses during the period and the costs of rationalization including redundancies which totalled 900 group-wide during the year.

This year has started well, and quite apart from the prospect of work starting later in the year on the AGR boiler contracts. Order intake is sound and NEI is seeing efficiency benefits from the measures carried out last year. The effect of the steel strike could be seen if supply bottlenecks develop, but there is no sign of that happening yet.

Thus profits could well be returned to the 1978 level before the AGR business gets underway later in the year. This is important of course, particularly since it should take NEI comfortably through the recession, but



Mr Duncan McDonald, chairman of Northern Engineering Industries.

the group would still like more business for its generator and switchgear operations and is tendering hard for that overseas.

With a sound balance sheet and the new contracts then the yield—on a maintained dividend—of 12.6 per cent could become increasing attractive as time wears on.

Against that, though, NEI has still to produce CCA figures (and will not do so until the 1980 accounts). When they are published they are unlikely to make happy reading.

Coral
Looking for a lucky break

Market doubts about Coral Leisure are adequately summed up by a yield of 151 per cent and a p/e ratio of around 4 on stated 1979 earnings.

Last year profits (over a 53-week period) are shown to have risen 14 per cent to £24.8m. But nearly all the running was made by the casinos, whose profits rose 57 per cent to £11.17m and whose future must be in jeopardy.

Elsewhere the picture was not particularly bright with holidays, mainly Pontins, chipping in profits increased by 11 per cent to £9.5m; hotels slipping fractionally to £2.6m, and racing dropping 38 per cent to £5.16m.

The bull point, however, was the 10 per cent increase in the dividend, which Coral's bankers were clearly aware of, and which points to some confidence in a future without casinos. With borrowings of around £50m against shareholders funds of around £72m, Coral is clearly uncomfortably highly-levered if casino cash-flow is to disappear. But it is also in the right sort of leisure area to gain support in the current economic climate.

Whatever the outcome on the casino front, there will be a large tranche of profits from this division for the current year at least. Ironically, however, the spin of the wheel has not been to advantageous in the opening months with Coral on the wrong end of some exceptionally lucky streaks by international gamblers.

Given that historic non-casino profits would provide a p/e ratio of under 9 and also just cover the dividend there might seem something to go for in the current rating. But Coral has already lost a lot of institutional support and the future looks sufficiently cloudy to encourage extreme caution.

It was not that long ago when the mention of Japanese televisions brought on the flushes among the British TV makers. Now three Japanese TV companies, with another waiting in the wings, have been admitted to the United Kingdom trade association.

As a further sign of changing times the association has also changed its name from the British Radio Equipment Manufacturers' Association to the British Radio & Electronic Equipment Manufacturers' Association, although it still wants to be known as Brema.

Brema stipulates that member companies have to be involved in manufacturing and the Japanese, in their drive to use Britain both as a market and a European sales spring-board, have been qualifying at an increasing pace. Sony, Matsushita (otherwise National), and Toshiba have qualified in that order. Mitsubishi qualifies in July.

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The biggest single ingredient in the Finance Bill 1980 is the smaller business enterprise package; the question now arises—what is this worth in terms of national economic growth.

Under Labour, fiscal "incentives" for small businesses were often camouflage for reducing overall redistributive taxation without appearing to have done so, and the Conservatives have to some extent stolen Lord Lever's clothes.

The small company 1979 corporation tax rate is down from 42 per cent to 40 per cent and the company 10 "small" business profits up to £70,000 a year (previously £60,000). Appointment of trading profits finally goes.

Initial capital and first year business trading expenses will be treated more benevolently. Interest on money borrowed to invest in new businesses will qualify for tax relief, even if the borrower works elsewhere for the greater part of the day.

Incidental costs of raising finance from outside sources: fees; commission; advertising; etc become deductible against a company's corporation tax—

if any. Pre-trading expenses incurred within one year before commencement become likewise fully deductible.

More significantly income tax relief will be allowed for entrepreneur's capital losses on shares in unquoted trading companies if and when they fall. This is an anglicized version of the French *Loi Monory*, and the most innovative and helpful of the whole set. It is right that the English version should apply to the private not the quoted company, and that relief should be confined to occasions of corporate failure.

It is simpler, composed of platiitudes about tax reductions designed to restore incentives to save, work hard and invest; an approach based on the crude psychology that high tax is a deterrent to effort because you see so little net in your monthly pay packet.

The other way he expressed as the urge to raise taxes so as to finance expenditure by

preneurs rather than juicy car- rors.

Failure may be henceforth tax-sheltered, but success is to remain heavily penalized by capital gains tax and capital transfer tax. The former represents a tax on inflation and the latter a tax on succession—an indispensable ingredient in business development.

The sweet prospect of success is still so assured by taxes as hardly to represent a goal to be relentlessly pursued and until this is changed, none of the failure tax-cushions will count for much.

If what we have seen so far represents government's complete fiscal policy until 1984, it is fair to conclude that it hardly has one. Or perhaps it has two opposed policies. One is simplistic, composed of platiitudes about tax reductions designed to restore incentives to save, work hard and invest; an approach based on the crude psychology that high tax is a deterrent to effort because you see so little net in your monthly pay packet.

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What has happened to tax reform?

Oliver Stanley

revenue than by borrowing, a consequence of the belief in the importance of controlling the money supply.

The effect of these two competing attitudes has, so far, been self-cancelling: to leave taxes much as they were, and simply to raise all thresholds to take uneconomic taxpayers out of the system, in order to make it more cost effective.

It is beginning to appear that for the present, government has abandoned tax as a positive economic mechanism. This may be the right course. We have learned that tax changes work their way through an economy very slowly. In recent years the social and economic consequences promised have never occurred, probably because the tax changes have been over- taken by further tax changes too soon.

This might have been an acceptable policy had not last year hopes been raised so high by the "thorough" review of capital taxation by Lord Cockfield, Minister of State at the Treasury, and many recorded promises to draw the "teeth" of capital transfer tax, a system

still unchanged since the days of Mr Healey.

Surely we are entitled to be told more about the government's taxation policies as the Bill winds its way through Parliament. Things cannot be too much uncertainty about the government's intentions.

Has Sir Geoffrey decided as a result of the review that capital taxation is acceptable as it is? Has he formed that view as a result of political constraints, or has he in principle rejected all the detailed submissions put to Lord Cockfield by British business?

If so, his smaller business enterprise package is a waste of time. Or does he mean to introduce far-reaching and positive relief measures? If so, when? Unless this uncertainty is resolved the damaging effect of it will far outweigh what is included in the small business package. Transactions have been held up since the review was announced, and are being held up still.

In 1979 Sir Geoffrey showed great confidence in tax reform, and he cannot possibly have lost that confidence so soon.

Not a good advertisement for self-regulation

Robin Young

The Advertising Standards Authority used to issue a clear invitation: "If you see an advertisement which is not legal, decent, honest and truthful, tell us." But now the ASA has dropped this slogan from the hoardings, not simply because it is thought to have outworn its usefulness, but because the authority no longer feels competent to determine which advertisements are legal and which are not.

The source of the authority's embarrassment (which has been considerable, with the Department of Trade, the Office of Fair Trading, trading standards officers and consumer organizations all condemning their attitude as irresponsible and unhelpful) is the Price Marking (Bargain Offers) Order 1979.

This contentious and little understood piece of legislation is a well-intentioned bid to ban imprecise and potentially misleading price comparisons. It outlaws any suggestion that anything is worth more than the price at which it is offered for sale.

At one time the object of the order makes completely illegal the use of formulae which have been widely abused by cheap-penny traders in the past—"worth £X—our price only £Y"—or "£X to £Z per cent off"—and so on.

The order created difficulties for the authority because it outlawed some forms of advertising which were still permissible under the British Code of Advertising Practice, the book which the ASA threatens to throw at any advertiser who breaks one of its rules.

Where the bargain offers order bans all word and value claims which do not relate to specific traders' prices, or manufacturers' recommended prices for some goods, the code of advertising practice accepted that word and value claims could be made where they could be substantiated.

In effect, the order says the substantiation must be right there in the advertisement for the consumer to see. Otherwise the veracity of the claim is difficult to check, potentially misleading and has therefore been made illegal.

Faced with the embarrassing situation that what was acceptable under the code had become illegal in the statute book, the ASA's Code of Advertising Practice has been revised to reflect this decision which in fashionable parlance is best described as "wet".

Rather than revise the code to conform with the new law (most of whose provisions came

into operation on July 2 last year) the committee decided instead to suspend Section 11, 4.4 and its sub-paragraphs in the code—those clauses dealing with price comparisons and word and value claims. It was intended to leave these clauses in abeyance until the application of the order had been confirmed by prosecutions in the courts.

Mr Peter Scruton, the independent chairman of the committee (all its other members are drawn from the advertising industry), regrets "that it was necessary, even temporarily, to discard the principles set out in that section of the code, guidelines which were wholly beneficial, bearing in mind that the self-regulatory system operates in the spirit and not merely the letter of the law."

If the decision gave Mr Scruton cause for regret, it exasperated those who are campaigning to stamp out the advertisement of bogus bargains. Precisely because the ASA was administering a voluntary and self-regulating code, it had a heavy responsibility to prove that self-regulation is more effective than detailed and complicated legislation involving new classes of criminal offence of which businessmen may be convicted.

Under its code of practice the ASA can require substantiation of any claim the advertiser makes. The burden of proof is on the advertiser to show that what he says is fair. Under the bargain offers order, the burden of proof lies with hard-pressed local authority trading standards officers who have to use the complicated legislation to obtain convictions in court.

Trading standards officers say that it could be a year or more before prosecutions come to court under the order. They seek compliance first rather than prosecute straight away, and even when a decision to prosecute is taken there is usually a six-month wait before the case is heard.

To have the ASA publicly washing its hands of the bargain offers order in the meantime is patently unhelpful to the authorities seeking to enforce it, and to consumers who may be fooled by the large number of illegal price comparisons which are still regularly appearing in advertisements.

The authority has been re-

Robin Young

turning a number of complaints relating to price comparisons and value claims without investigating or seeking substantiation.

A telephone complaint against a full page advertisement for Lancia cars which appeared in national newspapers on April 10 (breaching the bargain offers order because it claimed to offer "£200 worth of free accessories" without stating how that estimate of value had been reached) was met by a spokesman for the authority with the rebuff that "it is just semantics."

Indeed the ASA has rejected a complaint about a suspected bogus bargain which it did investigate, even while acknowledging that the advertisement might have breached the bargain offers order and therefore had been illegal.

The authority complains that interpretation of the law is outside its remit. This is an extraordinary argument from an authority whose general rules have at their very first words: "All advertisements should be legal."

It is, in any case, surely invalidated because the code of advertising practice runs parallel to the law in many areas, basic price comparisons. An advertisement offering an item as "real leather" when it is in fact simulated is a breach of the Trade Descriptions Act, but the authority would not wait for a conviction before upholding a complaint.

In other cases new legislation has been promptly incorporated in the code. This applies for example to the Mail Order Transactions (Information) Order 1976; the Medicines (Labelling and Advertising to the Public) Regulations 1978; the Labelling of Food Regulations 1970 (as amended); and orders under the Advertisements (Mire-Purchase) Act 1967.

The codes even anticipate the law in an area even more complex than bargain offers, that of consumer credit. Appendix 2.3 of the code says without quibble: "The requirements of this section... will be superseded when the regulations concerning advertising under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 have come into effect."

The position the ASA has adopted on bargain offers will probably prove untenable. Mr Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of Fair Trading, is to meet Mr Peter Thomson, the director-general of the ASA, on Tuesday and will attempt to persuade him to a change of course.

But that differences should have sprung up between the two bodies is especially timely. Only in February a joint working party of advertising interests, consumer organizations and the Office of Fair Trading agreed that Mr Borrie should have statutory powers to take out injunctions against misleading advertisements, backing up the ASA's self-regulatory system.

If the two are to work together in this way, it will have to be seen in public that they can at least agree about what a misleading advertisement is, and how voluntary controls and the law can complement rather than contradict each other.

One result has been the formation of a number of local, small-scale enterprises. Mr George McRobie, ITDG chairman, recalls that the group's project to investigate and develop appropriate technology for the United Kingdom (abbreviated to AT-UK) began in 1975.

It is typical Schumacher fashion we started with Mr John Davis (a former oil company executive, now an ITDG consultant) took on the task of looking at the problems here and the relevance of our ideas to this country. Quite quickly he began to realize that there were parallels and saw the need for local initiatives aimed at providing low-cost work-

places using local skills and appropriate technology.

He also realized the importance of training and guidance, and so he became involved in the Local Enterprise Trust movement. These trusts, of which about 30 have been or are being formed so far, are broadly based community groups. They aim to bridge the many gulfs in a community in a genuine drive to improve the local economy through human-scale technologies.

There is no standard pattern, but they differ from the conventional small-firm incubator in the emphasis on a broad community base and on appropriate technology.

One example is Clyde Workshops at Tollcross Industrial Village, Glasgow. Here disused buildings on the site of the former Clyde Iron Works have been transformed into a compact industrial community.

BSC (Industry), the job-creation offshoot of the British Steel Corporation, provided initial loan finance, and the Scottish Development Agency also helped. Clyde Workshops leased the converted buildings on fully commercial terms, streamlining the formalities and imposing a selective letting policy to produce an integrated business community. Sixty companies have moved in creating over 500 jobs.

"The village is more than an industrial estate," Clyde Workshops report. "It has evolved as a market place for its tenants' products and services, characterised by spontaneous inter-business trading, subcontracting and sales agencies, for complementary neighbours."

Another example of a local enterprise trust project is in St Helens, Lancashire, where a community partnership, including Pilkingtons, the glass company, has set up small premises for new businesses.

On average, each of these local enterprise schemes tends to produce about 200 or more new jobs in a local community of perhaps 50,000 people. Scale this up, says Mr Davis, and the result is a very significant national contribution.

Recently the ITDG launched an appeal to set up in London what will be called the Schumacher Centre for Technology Choice.

Outlining what the group hoped to accomplish with the new centre, Mr George McRobie said: "We hope to change attitudes by getting people to look at what they can do for themselves, to look at their life-style and see how it can be simplified and made more conserving than consuming, to look at working relationships and see how these can be more productive and harmonious."

Appropriate technology is not necessarily low technology. "We hope to provide information about small-scale technology options and their applications," says Mr McRobie. "And these do not necessarily have to be at the lower end of the technology spectrum."

Kenneth Owen

Technology

When small is beautiful in Britain too

The phrase "small is beautiful" is linked firmly with the name of the late Dr Fritz Schumacher, who wrote a book of that title, *Small is Beautiful: The Economics of Human Development*, in 1958, and preached the gospel that large-scale technology was inappropriate to the human needs of many countries.

Over the past 15 years Dr Schumacher's ITDG has seen a growing acceptance of his concepts and attitudes. The group has brought "technology with a human face" to many of the world's developing countries and continues to promote a simple, do-it-yourself approach to agricultural and industrial processes.

The flavour of ITDG's work is given in a recent issue of the group's magazine *Appropriate Technology*. The contents include articles on a simple rotary injection planter for maize and beans (Nigeria); how to build a blacksmith's bellows (Papua New Guinea); using rice husk ash for making cement-like materials (Pakistan); small-scale papermaking (India); and a manually controlled rice curing unit (Bangladesh).

Thus the appropriate-technology or AT movement has been focussed primarily on the needs of the developing nations. In Britain the general public's

awareness of the subject has probably been limited to television programmes which treat it as a joke in Surbiton, and real-life communities which treat it seriously in Wales.

But in reality there is much more to AT in Britain than *The Good Life* and the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth. For a realization of this, see Dr Schumacher's precepts are now relevant here also—not in making cement from rice-husks but in thinking seriously of possible options and alternatives that can conserve energy and resources, create jobs, and improve the quality of life in local communities.

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Stock markets

Long tap expectations keep trading quiet

There was a quieter atmosphere in the stock markets yesterday compared with Wednesday, as dealers and investors awaited the confirmation of the sell-out in the new long tap and the latest trade and banking figures. The smaller-than-expected rise in Sterling helped to keep prices on an even keel and gilt edged the day waiting for the Bank of England's announcement on the tendered price of £1 to £1 off Wednesday's best price.

The recent acquisition by Cavendish of a 50 per cent holding in Cowdall Industrial Holdings, which is 36 per cent owned by Illingworth Morris and Mrs Pamela Mason, has sent speculators scurrying into the stock. At 21p last week, the share price is now 30p.

the tap and the allocations. In the event the trade figures were much in line with predictions and made little impact.

Although most equity sectors were quiet, prices stayed firm up until the close when the FT Index dipped for the first time in the day to finish at 442.6, down 0.5, having reached its top level of 443.9 at noon. Tobbars particularly in the blue chip stocks pointed out that Wall Street's 12 point fall to 771 had upset the market at the start.

Gilt finished the day down on the previous night's high levels made after hours although the Government Broker managed to sell a little more of Exchequer 3 per cent 1984 at 570.

Longs, which had opened at the previous night's high levels, quickly eased off with a finishing price of about 51 lower. Shorts suffered the same fate and ended with a change of

Leading industrials showed few changes at the close with the exception of Unilever where there was a stock shortage. It closed 11p up at 419p. ICI closed 2p up at 374p. Rank closed 1p up at 120p. BOC closed 1p up at 279p. Glaxo at 216p and Courtauld at 67p were unchanged. Dunlop was also static at 57p and BAT finished the same at 236p although it rose 2p during the day.

Among the features arising from companies' results, Coral Leisure regained 1p lost before its announcement, to close unchanged at 69p while Brocks group, which maintained its dividend, regained the losses which anticipated poor profits to finish 2p up at 43p. De Vere Hotels and Restaurants fell 5p to 218p after a 12 per cent

profits drop, while a 27 per cent earnings fall cut 6p from Albert Martin at 60p.

P & O lost an early 5p rise to finish 1p up at 119p after denying a report that BP might buy its gas carrier fleet. Also in shipping, Furness Withy remained at 368p after Mr C. Y. Tung announced that an Orient Overseas Container subsidiary had acquired a further 10,000 shares. Northern Engineering Industries, whose profits were bang in line with market expectations, hardened 1p to 42p.

Continued bid speculation based on Style Steel's assets and extensive property interests brought in the speculators once again, although after early advances of 15p to 185p, it dropped back to 175p.

Steel Brothers gained 10p to 127p in anticipation of next week's figures while James Neil, also reporting, soon added 4p to 55p. Ladbroke dipped 2p to 145p after further threats to its gaming licences.

The oil sector had a quietly mixed day with the second liners showing the greatest advances. Caledonian gained 60p to 220p in a thin market while Aran Energy moved up 22p to 324p. Siebens put on 10p to 655p.

Among the majors Ultramar gained 4p to 580p after the annual meeting and Shell advanced 2p to 348p with the publication of the annual report. Profit makers moved in on Burmah after its results and clipped the price 7p to 215p, while Tricentral's share issue plan to North Americans knocked the price down 4p to 300p.

BP was 2p down at 334p after

early worries about Iran. Rumours that Deminor would announce a holding in Lasso lifted the price 3p to 511p.

Electricals continued to forge ahead, particularly the secondary stocks. Farnell rose 5p to 304p. Electrocomponents gained the same to 548p and Unitech rose 10p to 301p. GEC dipped 5p to 379p, but Baxal gained 3p to 248p. Decca was up by 10p to 720p and the "A" shares went ahead by 5p to 600p.

Hawker Siddeley put on 2p to 186p after reporting its figures the previous day in engineering. GKN went up 5p to 271p, but Vickers was unchanged at 118p as was Tubes at 250p.

In mines, profit takers went to work on KZ after its better than expected results the day before and the price finished 5p down at 373p. Coal Gold gained 1p to 472p. Many of the gold shares drifted down, reflecting the lower prices of metals, but Anglo American Gold was unchanged at 574p as was Middle Wits at 360c.

Among property stocks there were overall gains on the day, although Land Securities slipped 2p to 207p. Stock Conversion was up 5p to 390p and Great Portland gained 3p to 245p. Among second liners, Municipal Properties jumped 10p to 480p.

There was widespread interest in insurance with interest in Hambro Life, which rose 6p to 181p, and Pearl Assurance, up by 6p to 324p.

Equity turnover for April 16 was 581,555m (number of bargains 11,225). The most active stocks, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Tricentral, Ultramar, Imp Cont Gas, Burmah, Allied Breweries, GEC, MFI, Bowater, European Peps, ICI, BP, BAT, BTR, Hepworth, Ceramic and Lasso.

Higgs & Hill payout from reserves after loss

By Philip Robinson

The Building group Higgs and Hill had had to dig into reserves to maintain its dividend yesterday as the group went into the red by nearly £1m last year.

Trading profits, already shaved by provision against the cost of closing the civil engineering operations, carried a £2.5 million charge allowance on payments from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr Edwin Phillips, chairman of Higgs and Hill, said:

on the East-West Corridor Road, which are still being negotiated. That knocked pre-tax earnings from a profit just over £2m to a loss of £908,000. Higgs had to pull nearly £1m from reserves to pay a final dividend of 2.35p, maintaining the gross total at 5.5p.

But Mr Edwin Phillips, chairman, was quick to point out yesterday that during 1977 and 1978 the group had transferred around £3m to reserves and the group's cash position remained strong.

During last year the group closed its small timber joinery business. Foster & Dickes, whose markets dropped substantially, but Mr Phillips said closure costs were insignificant.

He added that last year the group's mainstream business, building in the United Kingdom, continued to make satisfactory profits.

"The company's cash position remains healthy and in spite of difficulties of the United Kingdom construction market, new orders will achieve an increase in turnover for the current year."

"We expected a return to an overall profit position in 1980 but it is premature to give a quantified forecast," he said.

Midland Industries suffer 5pc setback

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Midland Industries, the Wolverhampton foundry and engineering group, has suffered its first setback in seven years. The group made £2.50m before tax in the 15 months to December 31 which, on an annualised basis, represents a fall of 5 per cent on the £2.1m made in the preceding year.

All the downturn came in the engineering division where the slump in orders for tractor loaders, dragged the agricultural machinery company into losses of £271,000. This turnaround accounted for the fall in engineering profits from £421,000 before tax to £29,000 in the 15 months.

In sharp contrast to competitors like Birmid Quicquay and Ley's Foundries analysts in the City are saying that Midland has done exceptionally well in earnings where it has invested heavily in recent years.

Hunting pleases with 29pc advance

By Peter Wainwright

Pre-tax profits of Hunting Petroleum Services for 1979 rose 29 pc to £2.93m, well ahead of midway market hopes of around £2.5m. The previous year, Hunting failed to meet its 1978 forecast of £2.4m and reported £2.08m instead.

Hunting is well represented in the North Sea. It sells and services drilling and other oil field services to the rig, and around half the £1.35m pre-tax made by this division last year, probably came from the North Sea. The year before the total was only £591,000. Indeed the only weak spot was crude

oil marketing, storage, distribution which £863,000 to £599,000, well ahead of the £500,000 forecast.

Hunting is, then, a North Sea company and Canadian dollar sterling has been a factor in the share price. The dividend by 18 per cent to 5.1p, net, or to 7.8p, in shares rose 4p to 21p.

The shares were on sale at 85p in July, have suffered from a maiden forecast, and the only weak spot was crude oil marketing, storage, distribution which £863,000 to £599,000, well ahead of the £500,000 forecast.

Since the start of the year, the share price has risen from 85p to 115p, a rise of 35 per cent. The shares were on sale at 85p in July, have suffered from a maiden forecast, and the only weak spot was crude oil marketing, storage, distribution which £863,000 to £599,000, well ahead of the £500,000 forecast.

The proposed £43 million of Xynetics in form which was last month in hand balance with a rival

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Latest results

| Company | Sales | Profits | Earnings | Div | Pay | Year's |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | £m | £m | per share | pence | date | total |
| Int or Fun | 41.3(41.7) | 2.2(2.9) | 1.05(1.1) | 4.5 | 1.35(1.31) | |
| Bentalls (F) | 6.3(6.1) | 0.29(0.35) | 0.12(0.16) | 23.5 | 2.6(2.0) | |
| Benford Con Alac (F) | 21.1(20.4) | 2.5(3.2) | 6.34(10.0) | 0.5(0.5) | 25.6 | |
| Casket Hides (I) | 1.1(1.6) | 0.2(0.6) | 16.9(13.4) | 4.0(1.7) | 7.45(6.7) | |
| Coral (F) | 36.0(30.0) | 2.8(1.2) | 9.5(10.0) | 3.0(2.9) | 1.7 | 6.0(5.20) |
| De Vere Hotels (F) | 19.6(18.22) | 1.94(1.21) | 14.2(11.0) | 1.5(1.1) | 18.6 | 3.1(2.5) |
| Leathall Stairs (F) | 10.8(18.4) | 0.98(0.53) | 18.4(12.82) | 1.0(0.5) | 30.6 | 3.7(2.89) |
| L&C Refrig (F) | 27.3(28.8) | 1.6(1.5) | 1.2(1.2) | 2.1(2.1) | 23.5 | |
| W. Low (F) | 9.0(9.1) | 0.5(0.52) | 7.5(15.5) | 1.5(1.1) | 2.7(2.76) | |
| F. Marshall (F) | 17.2(16.3) | 0.4(0.8) | 11.7(17.59) | 2.3(1.1) | 1.7 | 4.3(4.12) |
| A. Martin Higgs (F) | 25.5(21.4) | 0.92(1.25) | 18.4(15.59) | 2.5(2.5) | 7.7 | 3.85(3.73) |
| Midland Inds (F) | 38.9(20.8) | 2.5(2.11) | 17.8(13.9) | 4.0(3.25) | 30.3 | 1.0(2.0) |
| Northern Eng (F) | 45.0(45.0) | 2.5(2.0) | 130.4(2.5) | 1.3(1.3) | 13.6 | 3.85(3.83) |
| Free State Geduld (I) | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| A. R. Findy Grp (F) | 16.4(13.7) | 0.21(0.29) | 2.3(3.8) | 0.3(1.1) | — | — |
| Higgs & Hill (F) | 100.0(96.3) | 0.9(2.09) | 17.8(13.9) | 4.0(3.25) | 30.3 | 1.0(2.0) |
| Hunting Pet Ser (F) | 163.0(139.0) | 2.5(2.0) | — | — | — | — |
| President Brand (I) | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| President Stone (I) | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Welkom Gold | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Western Edges | — | — | — | — | — | — |

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. *net profit. †=15 months. ‡=cents per share.

Provision for repairs holds back De Vere

De Vere Hotels and Restaurants raised its provision for repairs and renewals by £384,000 to £1.95m last year, more than explaining the drop in 1979 from £1.54m in pre-tax profits. However, the drop in overseas visitors to the London hotel and restaurants did not help, and only last September the board looked to a "satisfactory" year after a nine-month profits rise of 24 per cent.

The shares duly fell 5p to 218p, even though the dividend rose from 5.2p a share to 6.00p

net, or 8.58p gross. Earnings a share fell only slightly, from 10p to 9.8p.

Turnover in the first quarter of this year is up 15 per cent and De Vere is exceptionally strong in having 15 provincial hotels. In total, 30 per cent of business is accounted for by commercial users and conferences. Asset backing is more than £3 a share.

Mr Leopold Muller, chairman, has yet to relinquish his controlling grip on De Vere. In February, 1979, it seemed that an approach was actually on the way. But it came to nothing.

Inflation and shareholders

Investment in companies is not attractive when capital continues to be eroded year after year. While rights issues to repair the ravages wrought by inflation on the resources of companies may be sensible in immediate stock market terms, over the longer term they involve shareholders in paying over more money to keep the same proportion of the equity of a company.

This was the pessimistic message of Mr William Hyde, vice president of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants, when he addressed the Association of University Teachers of Accounting at Loughborough College yesterday.

Seats on Muirhead board for two Tyco men

The chairman and a senior director of the American group Tyco Laboratories, have joined the board of electronics group Muirhead as non-executive directors.

Tyco has been steadily building up a stake in Sir Raymond Brown's electronics concern for some time and at the last count they had a 23 per cent stake, which sparked renewed speculation that the United States group would make a full bid. But Muirhead were swift yesterday to dismiss the latest board appointments as foundation for a takeover rumour.

Company secretary Mr Donald Buchanan said last night: "Both we and Tyco have said publicly that there is no substance to these rumours of a takeover. We have been saying it for about a year. These are very good businessmen and we welcome them to the board."

But Mr Buchanan said he could not be sure whether the Tyco men had requested seats on Muirhead's board, or had been invited to join.

The Tyco men joining Muirhead are Mr Joseph Gaziola, chairman and president and Dr Raymond L. Bisslinghoff who has been vice-president for research and development at Tyco

Tricentral plans American sale

Oil group Tricentral will be seeking shareholders' approval to sell 12.5m new ordinary shares to North American investors around mid-June.

The shares, about 23 per cent of the existing number in London, would be underwritten by investment banking syndicates in the United States and Canada. The sale price would be close to the London quote. If the shares were sold at last night's price it would raise £27.7m for the company.

Amstrad sale offer exceeds shares quota

Amstrad Consumer Electronics' offer for sale has brought in applications for around 10 times more than the 2.33 million shares offered to the public at 85p.

The basis of allotment will be announced today but it is expected to be 10 per cent across the board with a ballot for small applications.

Sobranie Holdings in Gallaheer deal

Sobranie has agreed to sell its tobacco licence interests and stocks of leaf and materials to Gallaheer.

In July 1968, Sobranie sold its various trade marks to Gallaheer under an agreement which granted Sobranie 99-year licences to market and manufacture certain tobacco products.

In addition this agreement provided inter alia that Gallaheer would have first refusal over such licences should at any time Sobranie wishes to dispose of them.

Cash consideration agreed is £400,000, compared to book value of approximately £20,000, together with the purchase of the stocks referred to at book value and estimated to amount to about £800,000 at completion.

Lower tax benefits

On group sales (excluding VAT) from £41.71m to £44.35m pre-tax profit of £4.35m, the Kingston upon Thames based department stores group, fell from a record £2.9m to £2.4m for the year ended February 2, 1980. After a much reduced tax charge, from £1.25m to £324,000—due to stock relief and capital allowances on the substantial expenditure on the new store at Chatham—net profit increased, however, by £275,000 to £1.92m.

The total dividend is being raised slightly, from 1.9p to 1.92p gross.

Ultramar move on nominee names

Ultramar, stirred into action by the Oppenheimer raid on Consolidated Goldfields' shares, will ask its shareholders next month to amend its articles to disenfranchise shares in nominee names, where the beneficial ownership is not disclosed. But at the moment with the percentage of nominee holdings

Business appointments

Mr Francis Perkins, chairman of the British Insurance Brokers' Association, is to become the first president of BIBA on relinquishing the chairmanship later this year.

Mr Perkins will be continuing as chairman of the Insurance Brokers' Registration Council.

Mr Richard J. Stanes has been appointed managing director of M. L. Dextford Group.

Mr L. W. Peters and Mrs Jean Denton have been appointed directors of Heron Motor Group.

Mr Paul Gilmartin, financial director of Glaxo Holdings, is to succeed Sir Austin Birt as chief executive. Sir Austin will continue as chairman of the board.

down 1 per cent to 2.8 per cent and overseas holders only slightly up from 9.6 per cent to 9.7 per cent, the company has no particular worries.

Mr Campbell Nelson, chairman, said the company only wants to put teeth into the provisions about the disclosure of beneficial interests.

Shareholders approve Guthrie takeover

At the extraordinary general meeting of Guthrie Corporation, the resolution to approve the acquisition of City and International Trust, was passed.

The purchase of ESD, a subsidiary of the Heath Tecna Corporation, is conditional on board approvals and meeting the requirements of the United States regulatory authorities.

ESD had sales of £75m and pretax profits of £3.8m in the year to January 31. It will fall under Tilling's Newey and Eyre industrial equipment distribu-

Interest weighs on Albert Martin

With the interest burden trebled at Albert Martin Holdings—from £177,000 to £530,000—pre-tax profits of this clothing manufacturer fell from £1.25m to £922,000. Turnover for 1979 was up from £21.48m to £25.54m. Earnings per share have dropped from 17.59p to 11.73p, but the total gross dividend is being slightly raised, from 6p to 6.14p.

Provincial Laundries buys Sky Signs

Provincial Laundries has purchased 65 per cent of the issued share capital of the privately owned London-based Sky Signs, hirers of advertising balloons.

The initial consideration, payable at completion, is £127,500 cash. The maximum deferred consideration is £212,500 dependent upon profits of £54,167 being achieved in the 39 months to December 31, 1982.

For the year to September 30, 1979, Sky Signs made pre-tax profits of £37,941 on sales of £216,544. Net assets at that date were £35,700.

Mr John Caudcutt, the vendor, and Mr Miles Peckham have entered into three-year service agreements with Sky Signs as joint managing directors.

Insurers' president named

Mr J. N. Maltby has been appointed to the board of Burmah Oil.

Mr Albert Angel has been made managing director of Merck Sharp & Dohme. He is also a vice-president of Merck Sharp & Dohme (Europe).

Mr Peter Dording has been appointed managing director of Ransomes Sims and Jetties.

Mr Richard Berkshire has joined the Alloy & Metal Group as financial director.

Mr Roy J. Collins has been named managing director of K. P. Scherer. Mr Stuart R. Macdonald has been appointed marketing director.



THE RIGHT COVER FOR THE 80's

For quite a while now we've been re-shaping our plans to meet the opportunities of the 80's. Our long-term insurance profits and investment income for last year are significantly higher than for previous years although there have been disappointing losses in general insurance business. Our achievements allow us to pay improved bonuses to with-profits policyholders, and a special bonus to our United Kingdom life and pensions policyholders.

The effects of inflation challenge us to greater efforts in these changeable times but we shall be doing all in our power to safeguard the interests of policyholders, shareholders and industry in which we are major investors.

At the same time we are planning business strategies every bit as farsighted as the opportunities of the new decade allow.

On this basis we're happy to claim that Legal & General provides the right cover for the 1980's.

Highlights from the Accounts

| | 1979 | 1978 |
|------------------------------|------|-------|
| Long-term investment income | 15.9 | 14.9 |
| Investment income before tax | 26.1 | 24.2 |
| Profit before tax | 11.5 | 9.3 |
| Investment income after tax | 20.9 | 19.4 |
| Shareholders' dividend | 11.3 | 8.4 |
| Dividend yield | 96.0 | 100.0 |

Investment Portfolio at 31 December, 1979

| | £124.3m | £100.0m |
|--------|---------|---------|
| Equity | 61.2 | 50.0 |
| Debt | 63.1 | 50.0 |
| Total | 124.3 | 100.0 |

Total 1979 Investment Income £31.62m

If you wish to receive a copy of the Report & Accounts, or are interested in one of our insurance policies please tick the appropriate box and send us:

John Neill, Legal & General Group Ltd
Temple Court, 1 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 3TF

Please send me a copy of the 1979 Report & Accounts.

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER was steady. Afternoon—Cash, 22.25-22.30; 3 months, 22.30-22.35; 6 months, 22.35-22.40; 9 months, 22.40-22.45; 12 months, 22.45-22.50. **LEAD** was steady. Afternoon—Cash, 22.25-22.30; 3 months, 22.30-22.35; 6 months, 22.35-22.40; 9 months, 22.40-22.45; 12 months, 22.45-22.50. **ZINC** was steady. Afternoon—Cash, 22.25-22.30; 3 months, 22.30-22.35; 6 months, 22.35-22.40; 9 months, 22.40-22.45; 12 months, 22.45-22.50. **ALUMINUM** was steady. Afternoon—Cash, 22.25-22.30; 3 months, 22.30-22.35; 6 months, 22.35-22.40; 9 months, 22.40-22.45; 12 months, 22.45-22.50. **NICKEL** was steady. Afternoon—Cash, 22.25-22.30; 3 months, 22.30-22.35; 6 months, 22.35-22.40; 9 months, 22.40-22.45; 12 months, 22.45-22.50. **SILVER** was steady. Afternoon—Cash, 22.25-22.30; 3 months, 22.30-22.35; 6 months, 22.35-22.40; 9 months, 22.40-22.45; 12 months, 22.45-22.50. **PLATINUM** was steady. Afternoon—Cash, 22.25-22.30; 3 months, 22.30-22.35; 6 months, 22.35-22.40; 9 months, 22.40-22.45; 12 months, 22.45-22.50. **OTHER METALS** were steady. Afternoon—Cash, 22.25-22.30; 3 months, 22.30-22.35; 6 months, 22.35-22.40; 9 months, 22.40-22.45; 12 months, 22.45-22.50.

US says consumers may share cost of tin stock

Geneva, April 17.—Tin consumers may share the cost of tin stock, the United States says. The United States Trade Representative, Mr. Michael S. Smith, said at a conference here to negotiate a new International Tin Agreement, that tin consumers may be asked to share the cost of tin stock. He said that the tin stockpile was large and that the cost of tin stock was high. He said that the tin stockpile was large and that the cost of tin stock was high. He said that the tin stockpile was large and that the cost of tin stock was high.

Discount market

Discount houses experienced extremely testing conditions all round yesterday, with another huge shortage of funds and difficulties arising from the picking of clearing banks by members of the BIFU. To alleviate the shortage of day-to-day funds, assistance on an exceptionally large scale was required. The Bank of England lent an exceptionally large sum (over £500m in its own right) to eight or nine houses at 17 per cent M.R. until today, purchased a moderate amount of Treasury bills from the banks and the houses and bought a small number of local authority bills direct from the houses.

Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 17%
Clearing Bank Rate 17%
Overnight Bill 17%
3 months 17%
6 months 17%
9 months 17%
12 months 17%
Prime Bank Rate 17%
3 months 17%
6 months 17%
9 months 17%
12 months 17%
Treasury Bill 17%
3 months 17%
6 months 17%
9 months 17%
12 months 17%
Local Authority Bill 17%
3 months 17%
6 months 17%
9 months 17%
12 months 17%

Recent Issues

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 17%
Clearing Bank Rate 17%
Overnight Bill 17%
3 months 17%
6 months 17%
9 months 17%
12 months 17%
Prime Bank Rate 17%
3 months 17%
6 months 17%
9 months 17%
12 months 17%
Treasury Bill 17%
3 months 17%
6 months 17%
9 months 17%
12 months 17%
Local Authority Bill 17%
3 months 17%
6 months 17%
9 months 17%
12 months 17%

Euro-syndicat

The Euro-syndicat Index on European share prices was put provisionally at 130.15 on April 15 against 127.79 a week earlier.

Foreign exchange report

The United States dollar traded erratically in afternoon dealings yesterday as it followed a similar pattern of movements in the Euro-dollar market. The dollar eased to DM1.820 at one stage from a midday DM1.861.25 before recovering to DM1.850.40.

Dealers said the market was basically thin, with small orders for making large movements as the dollar continued to adjust to Wednesday's news of Chase Manhattan's cut in prime rate to 19 1/2 per cent from 20 per cent.

The nervousness surrounding the dollar made it difficult to assess how much the United Kingdom March trade figures affected sentiment for sterling. Sterling eased to \$2.260.75 as the dollar eased generally, from \$2.280.250 before news of a March deficit of \$17.6m, roughly in line with expectations but disappointing to some.

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Sterling Spot and Forward

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Wall Street

New York, April 16.—The New York stock exchange was sharply lower in active trading late in the session despite a prime rate cut by Chase Manhattan Bank to 19 1/2 per cent from 20 per cent.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 11.11 points to 771.25. Declines led advances nine to eight on volume of 39 million shares.

Analysts said traders apparently used the rally as a selling opportunity to do some selling. They also said the 21 1/2 per cent prime rate news was an annual rate of 1,040,000 was a little worse than Wall Street had expected.

That news, combined with the layoffs at Ford Motor and General Motors announced yesterday, led to a sharp decline in the stock market.

The Wall Street and Canadian stock prices given in the table relate to Wednesday's close. Later publication is caused by the change to British Summer Time. This will continue until Eastern Daylight Time begins in the United States.

day and today raised new fears that the recession may prove more serious than expected. Additionally, analysts pointed to disappointing news about corporations, including weak earnings, dividend cuts and rating cuts by debt rating agencies.

| Stock | Price | Stock | Price | Stock | Price | Stock | Price | Stock | Price |
|------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Alcoa | 24 1/2 | Boeing | 24 1/2 | Chrysler | 24 1/2 | Ford | 24 1/2 | General Motors | 24 1/2 |
| IBM | 24 1/2 | Microsoft | 24 1/2 | Apple | 24 1/2 | Commodore | 24 1/2 | Radio Shack | 24 1/2 |
| AT&T | 24 1/2 | Verizon | 24 1/2 | Sprint | 24 1/2 | WorldCom | 24 1/2 | Qwest | 24 1/2 |
| Time Warner | 24 1/2 | AOL | 24 1/2 | Comcast | 24 1/2 | Charter | 24 1/2 | Earthlink | 24 1/2 |
| News Corp | 24 1/2 | Media | 24 1/2 | Discovery | 24 1/2 | NBC | 24 1/2 | ABC | 24 1/2 |
| 20th Century Fox | 24 1/2 | Paramount | 24 1/2 | Warner Bros | 24 1/2 | Universal | 24 1/2 | TriStar | 24 1/2 |
| Time Warner | 24 1/2 | AOL | 24 1/2 | Comcast | 24 1/2 | Charter | 24 1/2 | Earthlink | 24 1/2 |
| News Corp | 24 1/2 | Media | 24 1/2 | Discovery | 24 1/2 | NBC | 24 1/2 | ABC | 24 1/2 |
| 20th Century Fox | 24 1/2 | Paramount | 24 1/2 | Warner Bros | 24 1/2 | Universal | 24 1/2 | TriStar | 24 1/2 |

| Stock | Price | Stock | Price | Stock | Price | Stock | Price | Stock | Price |
|------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Alcoa | 24 1/2 | Boeing | 24 1/2 | Chrysler | 24 1/2 | Ford | 24 1/2 | General Motors | 24 1/2 |
| IBM | 24 1/2 | Microsoft | 24 1/2 | Apple | 24 1/2 | Commodore | 24 1/2 | Radio Shack | 24 1/2 |
| AT&T | 24 1/2 | Verizon | 24 1/2 | Sprint | 24 1/2 | WorldCom | 24 1/2 | Qwest | 24 1/2 |
| Time Warner | 24 1/2 | AOL | 24 1/2 | Comcast | 24 1/2 | Charter | 24 1/2 | Earthlink | 24 1/2 |
| News Corp | 24 1/2 | Media | 24 1/2 | Discovery | 24 1/2 | NBC | 24 1/2 | ABC | 24 1/2 |
| 20th Century Fox | 24 1/2 | Paramount | 24 1/2 | Warner Bros | 24 1/2 | Universal | 24 1/2 | TriStar | 24 1/2 |

| Stock | Price | Stock | Price | Stock | Price | Stock | Price | Stock | Price |
|------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Alcoa | 24 1/2 | Boeing | 24 1/2 | Chrysler | 24 1/2 | Ford | 24 1/2 | General Motors | 24 1/2 |
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| AT&T | 24 1/2 | Verizon | 24 1/2 | Sprint | 24 1/2 | WorldCom | 24 1/2 | Qwest | 24 1/2 |
| Time Warner | 24 1/2 | AOL | 24 1/2 | Comcast | 24 1/2 | Charter | 24 1/2 | Earthlink | 24 1/2 |
| News Corp | 24 1/2 | Media | 24 1/2 | Discovery | 24 1/2 | NBC | 24 1/2 | ABC | 24 1/2 |
| 20th Century Fox | 24 1/2 | Paramount | 24 1/2 | Warner Bros | 24 1/2 | Universal | 24 1/2 | TriStar | 24 1/2 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Abacus Unit Trust | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Abacus Unit Trust | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Abacus Unit Trust | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
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| Abacus Unit Trust | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Abacus Unit Trust | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
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| Abacus Unit Trust | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
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Motoring

Flagship in extra appeal

the penetration of Japan into the British market, even deeper but for restraints has been only on the appeal of a car of readily available cars and better equipped main importers have a sporting coupe as an extra appeal at or close to their price range.

With the aid of two Weber 40 DCOE twin-choke carburetors, four-spoke manifolds and a special exhaust system, power output at 45 bhp to a useful 140 bhp. That, it is found, reduced the previously rather lethargic 0-60 mph acceleration time to under 10 seconds, which makes the Sapporo competitive in its class.

I am assured that the top speed has been increased to 118 mph but, more important, there is a noticeable improvement in mid-range torque for safe overtaking.

The Sport package also includes a front spoiler, front and rear fog lamps, low-profile Bridgestone tyres, over-ride alloy wheels, a rear window wiper, and absorbers, which seem to perform more impressively at higher speeds than over some of our deteriorating urban roads.

A light clutch and positive gear-lever movements encourage sensible use of the gearbox with a modest 17 per cent step-up from direct-drive fourth into the fifth gear the latter can be usefully employed within 40 mph limits,

and at times in 30 mph areas, as an aid to economy, a factor that no doubt contributed to my overall consumption of more than 26 mpg during the test period.

Recirculating-ball steering lacks the precision of a rack-and-pinion mechanism; so the Sapporo earns only average marks in that respect, although on the plus side the servo makes light work of sudden changes of direction. The brakes required quite a modest pedal effort for all normal use, and the wide tyre treads were a useful aid to stability when I simulated some panic stops.

The test car was equipped with the optional (at £150) electrically operated door windows, the excellent seal of which contributed to a commendably low noise level in the car.

As is the case with so many Japanese cars, interior equipment is very comprehensive, in this instance the standard specification including such things as adjustable steering, a multitude of warning lights, locking fuel-filler cap, illuminated ashtray, a roof panel housing a digital clock and interior lamps, rear-compartment heating, interior boot release and a radio with its antenna housed in a body pillar, as well as three-speed wipers, halogen headlights, tinted glass and laminated screen.

Six-dial instrumentation is arranged in a neat line with good vision through a single-spoke steering wheel; there is generous front-seat adjustment (though the cushions might benefit from a little more bolstering and improved modulation is tolerable (though not, perhaps, for adults on very long journeys); and the interior decor of the test car was pleasantly carried out in light shades, the effect marred only by some unnecessary name-badging on the doors.

As fewer than 1,200 Sapporos found their way on to the United Kingdom last year, the car also has a certain rarity value, which many find attractive. For those who prefer it, the Sapporo is also available with automatic transmission, and in common with all other Colts it qualifies for owner's insurance scheme which offers certain benefits to drivers over 25 years of age.

At my colleague, Peter Waymark, commented last week, there

are many factors that should be considered before purchasing a new car; but I would suggest that high among those that may draw a potential buyer to a Sapporo is that it is a car which combines a degree of flair and exclusivity with the distinct practical advantage that so many of its mechanical components are common to other Colt models, and therefore likely to be readily available, should the need arise, throughout the dealership network.

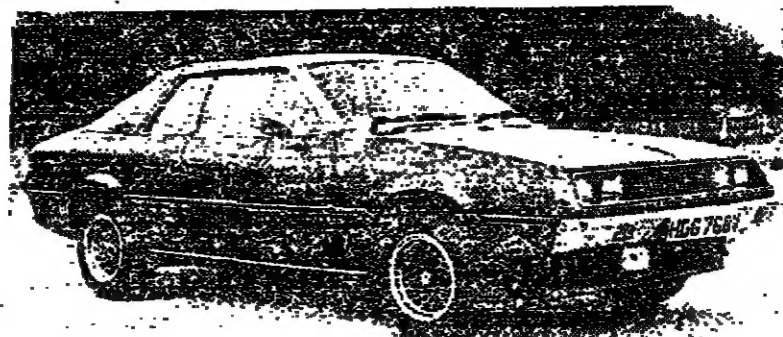
A recent business trip to the United States, involving days in the Mid-West and on the West Coast, was my first for two years, a long enough period for me to expect (and discover) some significant changes on the automotive scene.

I was particularly interested to see the extent to which the new car buyer had responded to the American Government's exhortations to "think small".

Massive investment has been necessary by the United States car industry to rush through new ranges of smaller cars (some of which are yet to emerge from the production pipelines). That will be recouped only by sustained high-volume sales, encouraged by expensive marketing programmes which doubtless will urge the buyer to load his smaller car with options, thereby restoring the industry's per-unit profit margin to a tolerable level.

American Motors have long supported the smaller-car movement (they would have disappeared long ago had they not done so); troublemaker Chrysler have used their links with Mitsubishi to provide themselves with some useful contenders; and Ford, with their Mustangs, Capris and Granadas (the last two are completely different cars from their European namesakes), have also been generating some much-needed showroom traffic to compensate for the markedly diminished interest in their larger models.

But it seems to have taken the



The Colt Sapporo 2000 GSR - favourable comments

The Sapporo is a conventional coupe rather than a hatchback, offering a totally enclosed luggage compartment of generous length and width but shallow depth, and with a somewhat restricted opening ahead of a prominent sill.

Comment on a car's appearance must always be subjective, but the test car, which was fitted with a vinyl roof covering which forms part of an Executive package, drew a number of favourable comments during the week it was in my possession.

As fewer than 1,200 Sapporos found their way on to the United Kingdom last year, the car also has a certain rarity value, which many find attractive. For those who prefer it, the Sapporo is also available with automatic transmission, and in common with all other Colts it qualifies for owner's insurance scheme which offers certain benefits to drivers over 25 years of age.

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Whereas in the immediate aftermath of the 1973 energy crisis utterances from the White House had rendered the standard-size American car virtually unsaleable overnight, only for it to return to favour in a matter of months (old car-buying habits die hard), this time it looks as though the message has really got home.

Already there are so many American-built, European-size cars to be seen in main traffic centres (and I am thinking in particular of San Francisco and Los Angeles) that it is the traditional "Detroit battleships" which are beginning to look the odd men out, rather than the imports, which of course began their reeducation of the American driver.

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giant General Motors Corporation to provide the seal of approval for the Detroit-built small car. The drastic scaling down of the Cadillac was a bold move, which in turn created the right climate for the introduction of the four new aces in GM's pack. They are the so-called X-cars, which are being built in Buick, Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Pontiac versions, which the Chevrolet Citation has recently been named the Motor Trend 1980 Car of the Year.

With a choice of body styles and of either a 2.5-litre, four cylinder or a 2.8-litre, V-6 engine, and overall dimensions that are a little less than those of, for example, a Rover 2300/2600/3500, the X-cars typify Detroit's wholehearted investment in the European-sized car.

However, if such cars were to have a major and lasting place in the United States industry's catalogue, it was essential that these models, representing as they do such a vast financial commitment, should be enthusiastically received in the market place.

From what I saw of them on the highways of Minnesota, Wisconsin and California their level of acceptance must already have prompted sighs of relief, not only in GM's boardroom but also in those of their rivals, whose similarly conceived model ranges have yet to be announced.

It may still be too early to pronounce the giant-size Detroit car dead, but happily the days of the traditional gas-guzzling space-consuming monster can be numbered with some confidence. After all, when even Cadillac comes in smaller packages, who needs to think big?

John Blunsden

Vehicle lease

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| per 1,000 | £2,500.00 | £250.00 | £2,500.00 | £250.00 | £2,500.00 |
| Volvo 740 G | £2,500.00 | £250.00 | £2,500.00 | £250.00 | £2,500.00 |
| per 1,000 | £2,500.00 | £250.00 | £2,500.00 | £250.00 | £2,500.00 |
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LEGAL NOTICES

In the Supreme Court of Hong Kong, in the matter of the application of the Master of the "AMALGAMATED RUBBER TRADING COMPANY LIMITED" (the "Company") for an order of winding up of the Company, pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 32 of the Laws of Hong Kong), the following notice is hereby given:—

The Company is a company incorporated in Hong Kong, and its registered office is at the 11th Floor, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 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1557, 1559, 1561, 1563, 1565, 1567, 1569, 1571, 1573, 1575, 1577, 1579, 1581, 1583, 1585, 1587, 1589, 1591, 1593, 1595, 1597, 1599, 1601, 1603, 1605, 1607, 1609, 1611, 1613, 1615, 1617, 1619, 1621, 1623, 1625, 1627, 1629, 1631, 1633, 1635, 1637, 1639, 1641, 1643, 1645, 1647, 1649, 1651, 1653, 1655, 1657, 1659, 1661, 1663, 1665, 1667, 1669, 1671, 1673, 1675, 1677, 1679, 1681, 1683, 1685, 1687, 1689, 1691, 1693, 1695, 1697, 1699, 1701, 1703, 1705, 1707, 1709, 1711, 1713, 1715, 1717, 1719, 1721, 1723, 1725, 1727, 1729, 1731, 1733, 1735, 1737, 1739, 1741, 1743, 1745, 1747, 1749, 1751, 1753, 1755, 1757, 1759, 1761, 1763, 1765, 1767, 1769, 1771, 1773, 1775, 1777, 1779, 1781, 1783, 1785, 1787, 1789, 1791, 1793, 1795, 1797, 1799, 1801, 1803, 1805, 1807, 1809, 1811, 1813, 1815, 1817, 1819, 1821, 1823, 1825, 1827, 1829, 1831, 1833, 1835, 1837, 1839, 1841, 1843, 1845, 1847, 1849, 1851, 1853, 1855, 1857, 1859, 1861, 1863, 1865, 1867, 1869, 1871, 1873, 1875, 1877, 1879, 1881, 1883, 1885, 1887, 1889, 1891, 1893, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1901, 1903, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1913, 1915, 1917, 1919, 1921, 1923, 1925, 1927, 1929, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1943, 1945, 1947, 1949, 1951, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2025, 2027, 2029, 2031, 2033, 2035, 2037, 2039, 2041, 2043, 2045, 2047, 2049, 2051, 2053, 2055, 2057, 2059, 2061, 2063, 2065, 2067, 2069, 2071, 2073, 2075, 2077, 2079, 2081, 2083, 2085, 2087, 2089, 2091, 2093, 2095, 2097, 2099, 2101, 2103, 2105, 2107, 2109, 2111, 2113, 2115, 2117, 2119, 2121, 2123, 2125, 2127, 2129, 2131, 2133, 2135, 2137, 2139, 2141, 2143, 2145, 2147, 2149, 2151, 2153, 2155, 2157, 2159, 2161, 2163, 2165, 2167, 2169, 2171, 2173, 2175, 2177, 2179, 2181, 2183, 2185, 2187, 2189, 2191, 2193, 2195, 2197, 2199, 2201, 2203, 2205, 2207, 2209, 2211, 2213, 2215, 2217, 2219, 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